The International
Crosby Circle Presents

BING

1926-1976

London
Palladium
MAGIC

September
1976.

No43

One could sense so strongly the great respect, admiration and affection for Bing from everyone present.....the show was superb.
BING AT THE PALLADIUM: 1976

Doreen Mitchell.
Pinner, Midd'x.

Edited & Published for the ICC by REG BRISTO, 7, Greenmeadow Close, CWMBRAN, GWENT, NP4 3NR.

Original Material C 1976.

BING: Official Organ of the International Crosby Circle: No. 43.Sept.1976

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS:

We're grateful to Berts Bishop and Morton for the picture of Bing on page 25. We're not grateful to anybody for the picture on p.41 - and apologise to Len Hayes for his and Bing's dark visages! The picture looked good....but it was too late to change.

	Page
Editorial..	4.
The Palladium!	5.
" " Reviews	11.
" " Points for Posterity ..	18.
Contemporary picture of Bing. ..	25.
Keeping Track with BERT BISHOP ..	27.
Discord Department!	35.
Those Falling Leaves!.	37.
Picture &c.	41.
Bing on the Box: by Bert Bishop ..	43.
Another 50th Anniversary..	46.
Trading Post..	50.

Overwhelmingly readers chose the "silhouette" outline of Bing as the new tie design... some excellent ties were actually drawn but most ignored the proviso that the tie MUST be capable of being acceptable with almost any suit!

The order has been placed and details awaited; should they arrive in time an insert willbe enclosed with this issue. Dark, or navy-blue tie with the gold motif of Bing.

THOSE FALLING LEAVES on p. 37 announces that our annual get-together for this year will be on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, AT ROUNDHAY PARK, LEEDS - Manor Hotel. A second function is also announced herein for the Newcastle area. Don't get them confused!

Our usual warm welcome for so many new members, among them: W.T.Anning (Notts); Terry Barnard (Ipswich); Mrs.Audrey Browne (Henfield); Pierre Bugnot, Marseilles; Jas. Barber, Swanwick; Wag Bowerman, Watford; Len Cameron,Alberta, Canada; Audrey Cooper, Notts; Edith Chappenden, Peckham; Maurice Chantrey, Beckenham; Derek Collinge, Nelson; Eric Dunkley, Yaxley; W. Drake, Colchester; Michael Duxbury, Blackburn; Bernard Denham and N.J.Daly, USA; Mark Parker, Preston; Ray Forster, Liverpool; M. Froschmayer, Switzerland; Roy Gunson,Nr. Workington; Mrs. C.M.Gale, London, N7; Doreen & Tony Holmes, Whetstone; J. Harman, Hemel Hempstead; Tony Hobbs, Cardiff; C.A.Heasman, Northolt; Thos. Hughes, Leeds; Jack Higginson, Australia; David Johnston, Dumbarton; R.S.Jones, Hebburn; Madeline Kerns, USA; Mrs. V. King, Haywards Heath; Peter Kirkkaldy, Coventry;Paul Morrison, Rowlands Gill; Jenny Mills, Carshalton; Isoloa Miroli, Dumfries; Harry Marrs, Darlington; Peter Murray, Edinburgh; Eileen Mansfield, Romford; Mrs. E. McGregor, Dundee Angus; Gilbett McKee, Co. Down; Peter Morey, Yalding; Wm. McDowell, Co. Antrim; Mike Mansley, Porthcawl; L. Newsome, Shepton Mallett; Patricia O'Brien, Sutton; John Pyne, Australia; D.C. Proctor, Wilberfoss; Ian Patience, Ilford; Terry Quilty, Wythenshawe; Barry Poxon, Canada; T.H.Poulton, Kinghurst; A. Petyon, Watford; David Pike, Luton; T.C.Pews, Edinburgh; Neil Robinson, Rolleston; J. Risley, Warlingham; Harry Ross, Portsmouth; Peter Robins, London, S.W.11; Michael Reynolds, Westlands; T.D.Swain, Shrewsbury; M. Solomon, Hemel Hempstead; Jean Stevens, London, W10; Jack Saunders, London, SW4 Wm. Tootle, St. Helens; MW.Thomas, Worthing; Gordon Thomas, Basingstoke; W.T.Trew, Worcester; Brenda Trowell, Hastings; Geoff. Vizard, Wigan; J.K.Yates, Blackpool; Phil Wood, Edinburgh; Eric Webb, Stalybridge; Miss P.M.Woolward, Pershore; Lionel Williams, Sittingbourne; Mrs. S. Wills, Belvedere; J. Norris Wood, Wadhurst; L.A. Wortley, Gt. Yarmouth; Sylvia Walsh, Paddock Head; Wm. Warley, Hull...

BOB ROBERTS, 56 Thorold Rd., Chatham, Kent is our tape consultant/expert/supplier: enclose SAE when enquiring for taped material - almost anything that Bing has recorded!

JOHN BASSETT, Bingville, 72 Stromness Rd., Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 4JQ is anxious to pursue discographical research and topics in BING. Please write to John if able to contribute.

MRS. BERYL OVERBURY, 60 Highland Way, Redditch, Worcs. B98 7RH can inform you about the SINATRA MUSIC SOCIETY.

Thanks to all the many letter writers - and my sincere regrets that there just isn't the space to use every last one of them! But, keep them coming.....

BING: Official Organ of the International Crosby Circle: No. 43.Sept.1976

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS:

	Page
Editorial..	4.
The Palladium!	5.
" " Reviews	11.
" " Points for Posterity ..	18.
Contemporary picture of Bing. ..	25.
Keeping Track with BERT BISHOP ..	27.
Discord Department!	35.
Those Falling Leaves!.	37.
Picture &c.	41.
Bing on the Box: by Bert Bishop ..	43.
Another 50th Anniversary..	46.
Trading Post..	50.

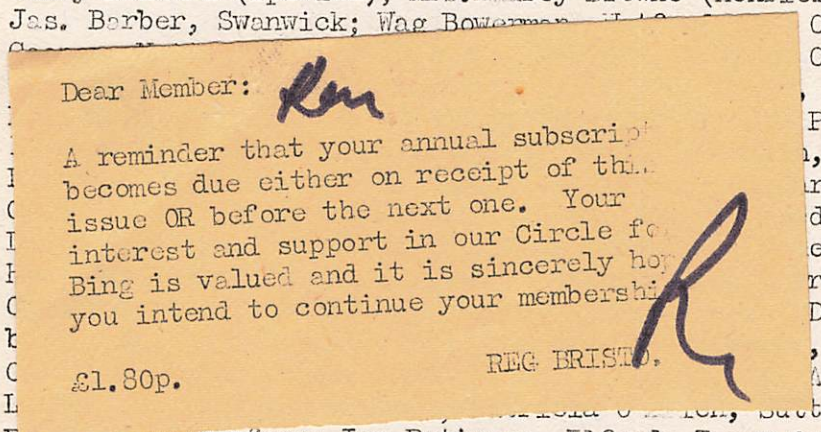
We're grateful to Berts Bishop and Morton for the picture of Bing on page 25. We're not grateful to anybody for the picture on p.41 - and apologise to Len Hayes for his and Bing's dark visages! The picture looked good....but it was too late to change.

Overwhelmingly readers chose the "silhouette" outline of Bing as the new tie design... some excellent ties were actually drawn but most ignored the proviso that the tie MUST be capable of being acceptable with almost any suit!

The order has been placed and details awaited; should they arrive in time an insert willbe enclosed with this issue. Dark, or navy-blue tie with the gold motif of Bing.

THOSE FALLING LEAVES on p. 37 announces that our annual get-together for this year will be on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, AT ROUNDHAY PARK, LEEDS - Manor Hotel. A second function is also announced herein for the Newcastle area. Don't get them confused!

Our usual warm welcome for so many new members, among them: W.T.Anning (Notts); Terry Barnard (Ipswich); Mrs.Audrey Browne (Henfield); Pierre Bugnot, Marseilles; Jas. Barber, Swanwick; Wag Bow... Cameron,Alberta, Canada; Audrey Chantrey, Beckenham; Derek , Colchester; Michael Duxbury, Parker, Preston; Ray Forster, ,Nr. Workington; Mrs. C.M.Gale, rman, Hemel Hempstead; Tony Hobbs, ds; Jack Higginson, Australia; eline Kerns, USA; Mrs. V. King, rison, Rowlands Gill; Jenny Mills, Darlington; Peter Murray, Edin-, Dundee Angus; Gilbett McKee, Antrim; Mike Mansley, Porthcawl; ton; John Pyne, Australia; D.C. Wilberfoss; Ian Patience, Ilford; Terry Quilty, Wythenshawe; Barry Poxon, Canada; T.H.Poulton, Kinghurst; A. Potyon, Watford; David Pike, Luton; T.C.Pews, Edinburgh; Neil Robinson, Rolleston; J. Risley, Warlingham; Harry Ross, Portsmouth; Peter Robins, London, S.W.11; Michael Reynolds, Westlands; T.D.Swain, Shrewsbury; M. Solomon, Hemel Hempstead; Jean Stevens, London, W10; Jack Saunders, London, SW4 Wm. Tootle, St. Helens; MW.Thomas, Worthing; Gordon Thomas, Basingstoke; W.T.Trew, Worcester; Brenda Trowell, Hastings; Geoff. Vizard, Wigan; J.K.Yates, Blackpool; Phil Wood, Edinburgh; Eric Webb, Stalybridge; Miss P.M.Woolward, Pershore; Lionel Williams, Sittingbourne; Mrs. S. Wills, Belvedere; J. Norris Wood, Wadhurst; L.A. Wortley, Gt. Yarmouth; Sylvia Walsh, Paddock Head; Wm. Warley, Hull...


Dear Member:

A reminder that your annual subscrip
becomes due either on receipt of th
issue OR before the next one. Your
interest and support in our Circle fo
Bing is valued and it is sincerely hop
you intend to continue your membershi

REG BRISTO.

£1.80p.

BOB ROBERTS, 56 Thorold Rd., Chatham, Kent is our tape consultant/expert/supplier: enclose SAE when enquiring for taped material - almost anything that Bing has recorded!

JOHN BASSETT, Bingville, 72 Stromness Rd., Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 4JQ is anxious to pursue discographical research and topics in BING. Please write to John if able to contribute.

MRS. BERYL OVERBURY, 60 Highland Way, Redditch, Worcs. B98 7RH can inform you about the SINATRA MUSIC SOCIETY.

Thanks to all the many letter writers - and my sincere regrets that there just isn't the space to use every last one of them! But, keep them coming.....

EDITORIAL

We have remarked from time to time that Crosby fans are the luckiest in the world. The reason for saying that was that Bing had built up such a treasure house of records, films, and memories that the world of Crosbyana was a never-ending source of interest - and admiration. But we didn't know just how lucky we were! And its a little difficult, in this early part of the magazine, to avoid going into a recital of superlatives again.

We just did not know, for instance, what the year 1976 was going to bring. Crosbyana, in its organised form, has been going on for many, many, years in one form or another. Ever since that unique voice was first heard here..... There have been times, no doubt, when some of the veteran members go into the doldrums....there were times when Bing seemed to be losing interest in his career...perhaps there were times when he felt he'd done enough, more than enough for one man in the world of entertainment.

But, things kept going. The introduction of the LP record was certainly a major event. It brought a completely new branch of record collecting, a new branch of research. It also enabled us to catch up on old 78s we had missed, lost, or broken. It was an event of major importance - a real shot in the arm, to coin a phrase. Then television - or perhaps it was the other way round! - came along and we had the chance to delight in those films Bing had made over the years. And because Bing HAD made all those records to draw upon and those films, too, it meant we had endless sources of abiding interest. Lucky fans indeed.

But there was just one thing that always bothered us: Bing had never appeared here....discounting the War-time episodes which were, nevertheless, of great interest and importance. And as the years rolled by the possibility seemed to have gone for ever. It was a cause of real regret. And then, suddenly, this incredible career took an even more incredible turn: Bing began recording again with new enthusiasm; for a British producer at that. He came here to record - another astonishing bounty. And a year later we had the mind-boggling news that after that seemingly life-time association with Britain and his hordes of fans here, BING WAS GOING TO APPEAR IN LONDON, DUBLIN, and EDINBURGH! Live, real, in-the-flesh - our living memory, our living legend, was going to, as it were, emerge at last from the cinema screen and the recording studio, to be a real person to us. And so, impossibly, it came to pass. Even now, some weeks afterwards we are inclined to borrow a line from one of Bing's celebrated early songs and ask: Was it all a dream? But, as the following pages shew, it certainly was no dream! How this astounding event came to pass we don't really know; we DO know we are deeply grateful to Bing, and to the people who made it possible.

Despite what you read later on, we have made the shattering discovery that the Palladium show was NOT telerecord, after all! How such an omission was made, by the BBC and the various ITV companies, is a mystery. How such an historic event was not recorded for posterity is not only surprising, but intensely disappointing.

Leslie Gaylor, perhaps more than anyone else, has had a year the like of which he never dreamed of....despite his pressures he tells us he hopes everyone in the Circle has enjoyed to the full this fabulous Crosby year. He writes: Owing to prior commitments Bing was unable to record the projected album in London that Ken Barnes had planned. However, before he flew to Spain on August Bank Holiday, Bing gave Ken the okay to record a dozen orchestral tracks (now done) over which Bing would sing on his return to London in October. These are the songs:

When A Child is Born; We've Only Just Begun. My Resistance is Low.
What I Did for Love. Deja Vu (As tho' You Never Went Away); The More I See You.
Make Like a Star. Beautiful Memories. A Little Love and Understanding
The Woman on Your Arm. Come Share the Wine. Seasons.

SEASONS will be the title of an album planned for next year by United Artists. It is a French song by Gilbert Becaud. SEASONS will include SPRING WILL BE A LITTLE LATE..., already recorded.

HOW HISTORY WAS MADE! Musical history...

THE PALLADIUM

JUNE JULY 1976

and for completeness, embracing the Gaiety Theatre Dublin, and the Usher Hall, Edinburgh.

Where to begin? The biggest job, surely, we've ever had to undertake. True, we've reported Bing here on visits, golfing, shooting, horse-racing and other holiday pursuits. We've reported him here for the Parkinson Shows &c and way, way back no doubt my predecessors had the job of reporting Mr. Crosby here for an extended stay for the filming of ROAD TO HONG KONG.

But its for certain nobody has ever had the task - gladly if apprehensively undertaken - of reporting the real live Bing at a real live theatre in Britain. At London's famous Palladium the only real theatre left, perhaps, fitting to receive the elder statesman of world entertainment. Bing did mention something about the history, or the hallowed halls, of this theatre when he revised the lyrics of his opening song, THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY. And the London Palladium has come to be recognised as the theatre where the world's best artists have appeared. Some, alas, were of dubious star-quality in a world where things seem to be devalued - and not only in a currency sense.

But now there can be no doubt of the authenticity of any claim concerning the presentation of the greatest artists in the world. For Bing has, at last, appeared there. And demonstrated in no uncertain manner that the best and greatest has appeared on its famous stage.

But everyone knows the story of the Palladium? And the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin, as well as the renowned Usher Hall in Edinburgh? Well, alas, not everyone WAS finally able to see these momentous events - illness, domestic circumstances, inability to travel and other causes denied a small minority this once-in-a-lifetime chance - and you will read later on in this issue of the appalling story of Edgar Lawson of Liscard, Wallasey. And in any case, the shows must be reported if only for posterity.

It was agony to put on a tie and a tidy suit (as they say in Wales) in the prevailing heat of 90° plus but it had to be done; no casual dress for THIS event! We've got to mention the fantastic heat-wave. How can we not? The hottest, driest (don't we know!) the LONGEST for centuries and fate had decreed that Bing was going to undertake what would, in cool weather, be a demanding stint - and we are NOT, either, going to dwell on the fact that Bing is a septugenarian as so many other reviews did. We all know it well and we all know it made his efforts all that more astonishing - and admirable.

Oxford Street and Argyll Street had a real Continental look that torrid, blazing-sun evening. People were on pavement cafe seats; shaded by gaily-coloured shades, busy with drinks and ice-creams... Two hours and more before the scheduled start of the show Argyll Street was full of people who just, it seemed, had to gaze on the phenomenon of a theatre that advertised, with life-sized pictures BING CROSBY AND FRIENDS. Cinema boardings, cinema-fronts doing that for scores of films over the past 40 years was no novelty. The Palladium frontage certainly was! And people seemed to just want to gaze at it, perhaps taking in the unique, historic import of such a sight. Some indeed had the heinous thought of getting a screwdriver - and removing some of those magnificent pictures!

But now it was time to go inside; shaky hands withdrew the precious tickets and while we KNEW we hadn't left them at home 180 miles away it was good to see them!

> It is impossible to visit any show and not feel some excitement - even a village hall concert breeds an air of expectancy and the hum of anticipatory conversation is very evident. But this night! The atmosphere was not only heavy, it weighed upon one.....I was conscious of the people who had come from all points of Britain, by train, by bus, car...we of the ICC (large numbers of course) were busy greeting each other. There was no question of making your way expeditiously to your seat...here's Leslie Gaylor...and Bob Roberts, Eric Griffiths...Pat Forster, Bert Morton, the Reades - FROM AUSTRALIA! - John Dobson, Phil Clarke...but we can't go on name-dropping, yet it made one regretful that, because this tremendous event was spread over two weeks, we couldn't arrange a mammoth get-together to mark this incredible occasion.

Gathering one's programme! And what a programme - tho' that does it less than justice. That wonderful brochure...if some thought £1 was a bit steep for a programme they were quickly compensated when they realised what a beautifully-produced document they had received for just that, comparatively, small sum. Glossy, on best quality paper, measuring $13\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, with magnificent pictures in colour; record pictures, song-sheets, tributes to Bing, etc. etc. And of good enough quality, easily, to be mounted and framed. Knowing the cost of such things today it was the bargain of bargains. I noticed that further copies were available from International Entertainments at £1.25p post paid - and decided there and then I wouldn't stagger from the Palladium with the 50 or so I had been asked to obtain from many members who wouldn't make it.....mind, they didn't know what they were asking for when they made their requests! But sadly, I checked with the firm a day or two afterwards - and even by then all had gone.....

> From those present on the first-night it seems the theatre was loaded with celebrities from show-business and there were few nights during that fortnight when that wasn't the case. I had the pleasure of a word with lovely Anne Shelton - still a tremendous fan and remembered as the girl who duetted in impromptu, yet astonishing fashion, with Bing on EASTER PARADE in 1944....one was still shaking hands and saying Hello when, dead on time, the lights dimmed.....and the excited hum of conversation died away to be replaced by an even more pregnant air of anticipation.

Whoever it was had the idea of starting the show in such fashion had a flash of genius. It is common knowledge now that a CINEMA screen was suddenly adorned with the 1944 Anthony Eden opening the Stage-Door Cantee...followed by Bea Lillie...in black and white of course. A newsreel of those days which only then were beginning to brighten after five years of War....and then the 1944 Bing - and SAN FERNANDO VALLEY! This in itself was of such absorbing interest I'm sure we all forgot, if only for a few seconds, what we were there for and seemed prepared to settle for Bing on the screen; and incidentally, this screen appearance of Bing's was greeted with quite spontaneous applause. For the flickering 1944 shadows on the screen!

The film snapped off and the heavy curtains of the enormous Palladium stage lit up a rich golden colour and Pete Moore's Orchestra, playing a majestic version of WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT came into view as they parted.....after less than eight bars there was a thunderclap of clapping, calling, even shouting, as Bing firmly strode out from the wings, bathed in a brilliant "spot".....the applause crashed on and on. I cannot help feeling any other artist would have been unsettled by such a cascade of sound. Bing stood, an occasional little bow, genial smile, looking round the "house", not forgetting to look upstairs....

And Bing was immaculately attired in evening dress. No colour-blinded casuals, no

floppy woollie, fair-isle or plain, no way-out "gear", just the satorial elegance one would expect from the one true super-star. And needless to say, Bing did not at some carefully gauged moment tear off his evening bow-tie as so many others appear to do showing us, they fondly believe, just how hard they are working for US! Bing did, I notice, change his evening jacket once...and at the very end of the show he took it off and nonchalantly laid it over his shoulder. And that was the first, and only concession, he made to the colossal heat of the evening!

> The roar of welcome showed no signs of diminishing so Bing gestured to Pete Moore, the music started and the show was really on...with Bing singing the amended PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY; which was followed by MARY LOU. Then Bing spoke, saying how pleased he was that we had all turned up for this charity show. It was clear, however, that whatever emotion was in the air, he was not going to add to it, not going to "milk" it as they say in the business!

There were no "announcements". Bing chatted to this huge, expectant audience, almost as if doing a "chat" show which, in retrospect, I suppose he was! There followed WHERE THE MORNING GLORIES GROW, the number recently issued by Decca of course on SOUTHERN MEMOIR and for that reason, no doubt, unlikely to appear on the Palladium set.

Next Bing sang AT MY TIME OF LIFE; and it was clear that Bing was not only in excellent voice, but was responding to the rapport that was apparent between him and the audience. He sang superbly. I spared a thought for Ken Barnes for the truth is that, and I feel this must apply to almost any artist, Bing made the commercially recorded songs sound rather sombre compared with his stage effort. If I may jump forward - in fact, to the finale of the show - Bing's rendering of THAT S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT, was really tremendous. Full-voiced, missing no nuance (despite the eternal problem always with us of unsatisfactory band/voice balance) singing with tremendous conviction, this version must have been easily the best Bing has ever done of this modest song. It sounded a GREAT song! However, back to the sequence.

Bing had a few more words to introduce a shimmering vision in a vivid red, lacy, dress: ROSEMARY CLOONEY! Full of vivacity, looking really good and clearly delighted to be joining Bing and soon after they went into that sizzling up-tempo duet of SLOW BOAT TO CHINA. One looked at Rosie and thought of all those radio duets, TRAVELLIN' TWO-BEAT, FANCY MEETING YOU HERE! Well into her 50's she looked the well-preserved, blooming, happy character she always sounds. And did SHE sing! BY MYSELF, her big hit of other days TENDERLY, sung with piano accompaniment only this one so that a truce was called with the young men operating the amplification console. And there we heard Rosie, bitter-sweet, melodious, "sympathetic" Rosie. Finally Rosie sang a new song, full of sophistication, with a lyric to which one had to listen - as the title will certainly suggest.

Rosie departed the stage with a tremendous reception...and there was Bing straight back, chattily explaining the meaning of the title of SEND IN THE CLOWNS preparatory to singing that Sondheim number....were people getting - no restive is too strong a word - but were people beginning to WONDER if Bing was going to stay completely "modern" in his selections? No, it could not be. With that treasure-house of unforgettable Bing-songs stretching back to 1931 - surely not! Yet, as already noted, Bing seemed to be making no concessions to his fabulous 50-year career - or the preceding 48 years of it!

Bing's next little chat was interrupted by a shout of "Fore!" and a golf ball came bouncing past him - followed by Ted Rogers, the British comedian, brought in to ensure the necessary balance in a good show - as this certainly was. He has an acid, even malicious line of humour and is well-known from his TV appearances. He went through the lot - politicians, pop groups, all kinds of personalities, the oil sheiks buying up London, and so on. And of course, most of it totally original.

> Ted Rogers knew Bing's face, but couldn't quite name him....couldn't be Perry Como because he was not sitting down...not Dean Martin because he was sober....he ran on completely non-stop for probably ten or twelve minutes, with many cracks worth repeating. One I particularly enjoyed was when he asked why we were getting so worried about security, spies and so on. "Why not let the Russians have our secrets?" he demand " - then they'll be ten years behind like us!"

Bing finally rejoined Ted and they sang GONE FISHIN' with Ted supplying the late-lamented Satchmo share of the duet! Ah, we were getting warmer with the old-time... the duet, of course, met with a rousing reception.

> It was my firm intention to sit there in the half-light with a pad on my knee, pen at the ready, no doubt (in true reporter style) to ensure a faithful account of everything that happened. Alas, that went by the board as soon as Bing made his initial entrance! I consoled myself with the thought that, no matter, everything would be etched in my memory for ever on this wonderful occasion. And, so far - so good! We have got to the interval... and being such a sweltering night there were few who didn't want a drink of some kind, hard, soft or on a stick!

There was little time, however, for soon the curtains parted and Bing with the quartet were doing the opening of the "High Society" classic, NOW YOU HAS JAZZ! Bing sang the first chorus - Oh you take some skins.... but then gave way to the feature spot for the Joe Bushkin quartet. Joe has a big reputation among jazz fans and be proceeded to give both a highly pyrotechnic pianistic performance as well as a performance that would have delighted the jazz fans. Besides Joe, (who occasionally played an odd looking trumpet on times as well as piano) were Americans drummer and guitarist, but with "your own British Lennie Bush on bass" as Bing said. Joe wrote HOT TIME IN THE TOWN OF BERLIN for Bing, and many other well-known compositions.

The jazz spot over, it was definitely "family-time" for Bing had the entire family on stage to sing SING! And a creditable group they made, too; this was followed by Bing and Harry duetting with YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND.

> It was then Kathryn's turn with Bing - and what a vision the lovely Kathryn presented with her graceful dancing... they sang I LOVE TO DANCE during which they did indeed dance. No, it wasn't Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers calibre but it was warmly appreciated - as was everything done that evening! Bing and Kathryn followed this with what, according to my mail since, proved one of the big "things" of the show: MY CUP RUNNETH OVER. A lovely song making, we felt, a very appropriate duet for the two Crosbys.

Harry then rejoined Bing to sing the million-selling song that Bing originally recorded with Gary: PLAY A SIMPLE MELODY, using a similar arrangement with counter-melody complete.

Then the entire family was on stage again, this time for a "round" medley; it has to be said that while Harry and Nathaniel - especially the latter! - sang valiantly and held up an end, there was no new "Crosby" voice in evidence! Plenty of talent - Harry demonstrated in a Segoiva-style solo how much his guitar-playing has progressed, and later on he sang what I understood to be one of his own songs, playing piano at the same time and accompanied by the Pete Moore Orchestra.

But this "round" medley had a comic introduction, with Nathaniel continually failing to come in at the right moment: "He's done it again," groaned Bing. It wouldn't surprise me if, originally, this was accidental and proved so funny that it was adopted as the style! Finally the "rounds" got away and turned into a very melodious effort indeed. The songs were ROW, ROW, ROW; FRERE JACQUE; LOCH LOMOND,

ANNIE LAURIE; MY BONNIE LIES OVER THE OCEAN; THE MAN ON THE FLYING TRAPEZE; the WHIFFENPOOF SONG; DARK EYES; SHE'LL BE COMING ROUND THE MOUNTAIN, SWING LOW SWEET CHARIOT and ending up with ROW, ROW, ROW.

Bing held the stage solo again and perhaps surprised everyone with a lovely rendition of a popular song of only a year or so ago - THE WAY WE WERE. This song suited Bing admirably and its good and it would be good to think this song was going to appear on an album shortly even if it isn't on the "LIVE" set.

> Next - and this was most exciting for yours truly - a very acceptable Latin-American rhythm from the orchestra brought Bing singing the well-known South American hit song, CUANDO CALIENTE DEL SOL. This again was really excellent and if this is a further sample of the MEXICAN MEMOIR album then I for one feel considerably reassured!

Incidentally, I find myself repeating that Bing sang well, this and that, but as no doubt will be gathered, he was in really fantastic voice all thro' - and I understand this was the way he was EVERY night of the fortnight, including the "extra" show thrown in on July 4 - American Independence Day, of course. So, your forbearance with the superlatives, please!

Rosie Clooney came back for JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS in a change of gown, but looking as attractive as ever. And on one night at least, the delectable but mature Rosie was joined by the youthful Nathaniel (he didn't give up though it seems golf is his forte!) for HOW ABOUT YOU? With Rosie's powerful support it became an acceptable duet!

> It may be as well to note here that while, obviously, the show followed the same format as all shows must, there WERE one or two variations introduced on differing nights. In any case, it is understood that the opening night ran on too long (not for the audience!) and minor cuts were made anyway. Even so, new things were slipped in - the duet just referred to being one of them.

After Rosie and Nathaniel departed the stage, under the admiring eye of Bing, he casually picked up a hand-microphone (both the hand and stand types were used during the evening by Bing) and looked across to Joe Bushkin and his colleagues, the "inner" curtain having dropped in front of the Pete Moore Orchestra. And up to this point you will note that no concessions at all had been made to the past. As we said at the beginning. But now followed the performance which will be indelibly imprinted on the memory of everyone privileged to hear it.

Bing said something about "its time to stir up a few embers...Joe? If you're ready.."

And they launched into that quite fantastic medley. Much has been said about it; much more will be said, especially when it appears on disc. To the best of my ability - and I cannot tell a lie - with the help of some aide-memoire from various members, including Les Brice, Les Todd and Ken Barnes (via Leslie Gaylor) Bing certainly sang the following staggering list of songs virtually without pause:

I Surrender, Dear.
Swinging on a Star.
Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams.
True Love (with Mary Frances)
Don't Fence Me In.
Pennies From Heaven.
Blue Hawaii.
Sweet Leilani.
An Irish Lullaby.
Just One more Chance.
Them There Eyes..
Moonlight Becomes You.
You are my Sunshine.
Blue Skies.
I'll Be Seeing You.
White Cliffs of Dover.
When the Lights go on Again.
Accentuate the Positive.
Please.
Baby Face.
South of the Border.
Galway Bay.
Dinah.
San Fernando Valley.
Million-Dollar Baby.
Rose of San Antone.
I'm an old Cowhand.
Temptation.

In A Little Spanish Town (with Kathryn dancing)
Wait 'Till The Sun Shines, Nellie (with Kathryn).
Easy to Remember.
Its Been a Long, Long, Time.
Mississippi Mud.
And OL' MAN RIVER which proved to be the hectic finale.

The medley to beat all medleys. Apart from anything else, how to remember the sequence? I thought Bing was picking up his cues from the piano-top, but often he was yards from the piano when the songs changed! What other artist could supply such a list of hit songs, leave alone sing them one after the other? Its something to reflect on that today one hit song can bring you a whole TV spectacular to yourself!

> Inevitably, we joined in. Bing invited us to.....we knew the words, we knew the "broken notes", we even knew the ad-libs! Of course we did....and spontaneous applause greeted each number until they began to follow one another in such fantastic fashion we began to get left behind.

In between whiles, Bing said "You're a good group....do you travel?" Few of us ever really expected to singalong with Bing!

> When this medley was finally brought to a sizzling end, Joe Bushkin walked off flourishing a manuscript of music - the medley arrangement - about six-feet long!

What a list of monumental hits for Bing; anyone who doesn't see his or her favourite among them must be remarkably unlucky! Who of us in the audience, who remember Bing fromt 1931/32 could ever have dreamed we would join Bing in singing I FOUND A MILLION DOLLAR BABY all those years afterwards; or for that matter, any of these great songs? I was a little surprised to hear WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER and WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON AGAIN included in the medley for I don't recollect Bing singing these typically war-time British numbers before. Perhaps it was a gracious gesture to the 1944 war-torn Britain. Perhaps it was a gallant gesture to Dame Vera Lynn?

Nobody wanted that magical evening to end, but the clock showed that end it must. So, the "inner" curtains rose to disclose the ever-willing Pete Moore and the orchestra. Bing said that this was a song that had come to mean a lot to him, certainly some of the things it said were of his thinking....

> And he proceeded to give a powerful rendering of THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT, and this indeed proved to be the finale. Strangely enough, though he started off in good voice, Bing actually seemed to get more powerful as the long (but not to us!) evening wore on into the night.....He gave that song an entirely new dimension with that stage version. As no doubt everyone will hear again in due course.

Then BLUE OF THE NIGHT was being played and Bing was standing there to what can only be mildly described as a thunderclap of a reception.....he was joined by the rest of the "cast" - family, Rosemary, Ted Rogers, Joe Bushkin and his players...and Pete Moore played on. Actually, my wife remarked "My goodness me, that conductor's worked hard tonight..." And he certainly had. The thunderous applause, the "Bravos", the "Encores" rolled on and on....there came a brief interlude when theatre staff brought on bouquets which they presented to the ladies - Kathryn, Rosie and Mary Frances, while something else was handed to the "men" - it could have been bottles! Bing slowly walked off, waving and smiling to the audience... he came on again, went off again...time after time and the acclamation showed no sign of abating, with everybody on their feet. The reception on his first appearance, coupled with the rousing "farewell" must have convinced Bing, all over again, that his British fans are indeed loyal - and appreciative - and he must have been warmed by his decision to say "Thank You" in such a positive way to them.....

No written report we are only too well aware can do justice to this historic appearances of Bing in Britain in the year of 1976; but at least these were the essentials and some of the trimmings. For the record, the concerts at the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin took place on 12th and 13th of July and at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh on 15th and 16th of that month. All in all, therefore, Bing gave no less than 17 of these mammoth performances.

The foregoing report of the proceedings will clearly illustrate that Bing was on stage for probably 2½ hours out of the three the show lasted. Perhaps some diligent reader can go through the report and arrive at just how many songs Bing did in fact sing in ONE night. Later on you will see brief references to the Dublin-Edinburgh shows and there is no doubt those venues received the same, or similar, programme that was presented at the London Palladium.

> Reflecting back on these shows there is no doubt Bing looked good; he looked and must have been very fit. He was in tremendous voice - that was no wishful thinking, no sighing for what used to be. It was a fact. His demeanour was incredible. As we have said twice already, there was no harping on his fabulous career - even that medley was offered in virtually "throw-away" style. He did NOT mention WHITE CHRISTMAS....more surprisingly perhaps to a lot of people, he did NOT sing a single word or line of WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT! Perhaps these things are just some of the facets of this incredible man, Bing Crosby. That he can give a modern concert which proves highly acceptable - highly acceptable? It was ACCLAIMED in no uncertain fashion - by practically every age group - and yet make no reference at all to what have been extremely important and telling items in his career. His humour was there - samples: "At my time of life I'm glad to have a pulse...." and in honour of the occasion "I've worn my hair!" Truly the peerless, unique, Bing Crosby.

THE REVIEWS

Few newspapers failed to carry a review of the history-making appearances and almost 100 per cent the oft cynical, jaded, reviewers were as enthusastic as the audiences!

It is felt that a small selection from them will prove of interest - and perhaps the most rewarding came from the show-business "trade" paper which also is celebrating 50 years of publication and over the years has never been backward in giving Bing his rightful prominence - even in these days of a vastly changed music scene. Here is what that paper, THE MELODY MAKER, had to say:

CROSBY - STILL THE MASTER. With acknowledgements to the MELODY MAKER.

Bing Crosby told a lot of self-deprecating jokes when he opened his London Palladium fortnight on Monday. But the one that drew most laughter was about the car park attendant in Hollywood who said to him: "Hey, didn't you used to be Bing Crosby?"

He laughed with the audience. Later, hitting a high note, he chided himself, adding: "I haven't been up there in years." And when he danced across the stage rather boisterously with his wife, Bing poked his back, which evidently had reminded him he'd had it for 71 years.

It would be easy, then, to concentrate on the nostalgia aspects and marvel at the sheer stamina of the man, who was up on stage for most of this three-hour show. But the audience was enthralled to find that as the evening wore on and he relaxed, his voice improved amazingly, getting richer and more resonant. By the end, when he sang the auto-biographical THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT, Bing Crosby was singing excellently, at least as good as he has sounded in the past 20 years.

(Cont....

It was a sensational achievement by Bing to sweep aside the obvious charge that he had "done well for his age," for he gave a concert that would have been fine for someone 30 years younger and when the audience delivered that standing ovation at the end, it was not only his history, but a splendid show, which had triumphed. It all drew a neat parallel with Frank Sinatra, who these days tends to rely on who he is and what he stands for rather than his vocal strengths.

Crosby, of course, came out of the crooning era, when songs were about romance and lyrics enthused about kisses that enchanted and pennies from Heaven andblue moons and the beauty of the deep blue sea. At first, looking rather frail and vulnerable on the big stage, Bing seemed as if he might be forced into giving only a nod to the golden oldies.

But when he warmed, he duetted with Rosemary Clooney, joked a lot with comedian Ted Rogers and brought on his family, he was fired enough to take a medley of the songs that spanned so many years. (There followed a list of the songs sung by Bing).

Crosby's edict has always been that the song's the thing, and he has rarely sought to print his personality on the words, which invariably stand up. Seeing him relieve these standards, injecting them with a real freshness, was to understand again the power of simplicity in popular song.....

A magical show then, with dignity and a delightful self-effacing stance, Crosby in his first London concerts during 50 years of music-making, is astonishingly agile and making more history.

Bing at the Palladium - for charity incidentally - will rank as one of the highlights of this or any year.

He marked our lives and is demonstrating he still has it. Some say nostalgia isn't what it used to be. Not so - in disciplined hands it can be richly rewarding.

Ray Coleman.

BING AT HIS BEST - AND NOW I CAN DIE HAPPY: With acknowledgements to the WCENING NEWS, Edinburgh.

At last I've seen Bing in person, on stage. You see the legend in his own lifetime before your very eyes and you get to feeling that now you'd be content to meet your maker. Crosby at the Usher Hall last night was that kind of experience.

Knock me down with your Sinatra records if I detract one iota from the marvellous man himself. The renowned pipes took the strain of the three-hour show with, it seemed, plenty to spare. Bing on stage strung it all together. The singing compere. First Miss Clooney. Delectable. Distinctive....Ted Rogers, Britain's most topical comedian recommended to Crosby by Como....Bing on his own had given us contemporary hits like THE WAY WE WERE and SEND IN THE CLOWNS, but it was with a 30-minute medley with the quartet that he really scored with this audience....

John Gibson.

CROONALONGA BING...and who could resist charm like this: DAILY MAIL (With acknowledgements)

Before Sinatra - which is like saying before light - there was Bing. And he it was who created an entirely new style of singing. He may not have sung the best songs ever written, but his effortless authority has

lodged even the worst in the memory-album of almost every family. And there must be many a hack who goes down on his knees all the way to the bank in thanksgiving to Crosby.

Without him, who knows, there might never have been a market for Old Blue Eyes, Mathis, Mel Torme or all the other crooners who followed. So it was something akin to homage which packed the Palladium last night...

Being unfortunate enough to sit directly in front of the talkalong, tap-along Lita Roza, I was possibly the only person present to appreciate the appalling over-amplification afforded the 72-year-old voice box and its backing....however, this was an evening when most things seemed to be forgiveable.....As a celebration of 50 years turning dross into gold, and gold into better, this was an extraordinary personal experience.

Jack Tinker.

NICE-GUY BING REALLY MAKES YOU FEEL AT HOME: with acknowledgements to THE DAILY EXPRESS.

The difference between Bing Crosby and Sinatra is that Bing made two jokes - about his toupee and his money - within ten minutes of taking the wide Palladium stage last night.

Sinatra doesn't joke about being bald or rich. He is still a full-time professional, and such things are trade secrets.

Bing, the older man, has accepted his age with grace and humour. In his new show at the Palladium, Crosby projects himself in his most natural role - as a friend of the family, the cheerful neighbour, everyone's idea of a semi-retired nice guy.

Crosby at 72 has earned his unique place in the world's affections. Now 50 years after his professional debut, he celebrates his anniversary with Britain by bringing onto the Palladium stage his dazzling wife Kathryn, and the Crosby's three clean-cut polite and musical children.

Crosby is on and off the stage throughout the show in the role of the host, He sings old songs and some modern ones in that familiar, resonant, unvaried Crosby baritone that seems to have been around for ever.

Bing's Palladium show is not an evening of high excitement. Its more like a memorable visit to a cluster of familiar and treasured friends.

Herbert Kretzmer.

A WORTHWHILE WAIT TO HEAR BING CROSBY: with acknowledgements to THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Danny Kaye, Bob Hope, Sinatra, Garland - all have been seen at the Palladium. We have had to wait half a lifetime for the most loved of Hollywood's entertainers. But, once we were in the theatre, Bing Crosby did not keep us waiting a moment longer. Up went the curtain and on he came, in a solo spotlight, to the centre of the stage. "I'm glad to have the pleasure of your company, " he warbled. Now 71, a slight boyish figure with more hair than was real, he walks with a slight stoop and as he sings turns his strange, glassy eyes full upon us.

But if the gait was stiff, the larynx was in superlative order and he looked, as they say, 'a million, giving his impersonation of an orn'ery friendly Joe making the noise we all like to think we produce in the bathtub. The evening is well-planned and he gives full value....

(cont.

...(his voice) seems deeper and even treaclier than on the records, an educated foghorn, mood music through a lamp-glass. And the phrasing is impeccable: original, unexpected, just as written on the sheet-music. But with style

Extraordinary to recall that our parents denounced his "crooning" as decadent. With the coming of the microphone, he showed how to use it for intimate, person-to-person singing. Joining in last night, the audience also crooned quietly, a lullaby from 2,000 throats.

Regrettably, the sound-system emplified his voice to spoil many delicate effects, and the orchestra of three dozen often drowned the singer. Only when accompanied by the subtle Joe Bushkin Quartet was Bing Crosby heard at his best.

John Barber.

BING'S 50 YEARS OF SHOW BUSINESS: Irish paper (not known)

Fifty years of show-business history sang, danced and gagged his way through a three-hour show at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, last night and Bing Crosby showed us just what it was all about.

He opened his show, at 7.30 and at 10.30 took his final bow, each time to standing ovations of several minutes.

What seems to amaze most people was his great stamina. Bing is 73 and after last night's show, one wonders how many of today's show-business names will still be around to perform at that age, let alone handle the lion's share of a three-hour presentation.

Opening his show Bing went back to his start in show-business with a couple of the first songs he sang in public and anecdotes and from there the show rolled along smoothly, with Bing introducing and doing songs and bits with Rosemary Clooney, the Joe Bushkin Quartet and comedian Ted Rogers who won the audience with a snappy line in localised topical jokes and some humorous general political observations.

In the second half of the show Bing was joined by his family - wife Kathryn, sons Nathaniel and Harry and daughter Frances, all of whom contributed to the evening. Harry Crosby III seems to have inherited his father's musical bent, if not his voice, and played classical guitar and piano. Other son Nathaniel is the golfer, it seems - at one time mother Kathryn remarked 'If he could do it with a putter he'd be all right" - while Kathryn, formerly actress Kathryn Grant, and daughter Frances both sang and danced with Bing.

The Old [illegible]aner rounded off the evening with a medley of songs - nearly 40 in all....which included Irish songs 'Irish Lullaby', 'Galway Bay' and 'When Irish Eyes Are Smiling' and the audience were encouraged to sing along. In fact, the only thing he didn't sing was 'White Christmas' and had he done so, it would not have been inappropriate despite it being a warm night in July.

Crosby is a show business master craftsman, of which there are very few. Everything about last night's show had a subtle class to it. And its not something you just get. Its acquired over years of experience. In short, it was a great and memorable evening in the company of a man who is truly a legend in his own life time and deserves to be.

Tony Wilson.

At the age of 72, Bing Crosby packs the London Palladium. Night after night audiences rise to their feet in tribute to his genius.

It could not happen to a nicer person. For Bing is not just a great singer who has brought sunshine and happiness into the lives of millions. He is a good man. Modest and gentle and unassuming.

I applaud his triumph. Will people be queueing to see Mick Jagger in the year 2015?

Acknowledgements THE SUNDAY EXPRESS
"CURRENT EVENTS".

"I went to see the incomparable Bing Crosby last week with Tony Greig and his wife. After the show, Tony said 'What fantastic entertainment!' I agreed.

What about a similar performance from you and your players on Thursday, Tony!"

Denis Compton in a cricket article
THE SUNDAY EXPRESS.

BING, ITS GREAT TO HEAR YOU AGAIN... REVIEW: DAILY MIRROR
"MIRROR TV"

Bing Crosby, London Palladium.

We weren't just applauding a smooth performance by Bing Crosby last night. We were giving the Old Groaner - and nice guy extraordinary - an ovation for the pleasure of his company during 50 years in show business.

At the age of seventy-two - although Bob Hope insists Crosby is seventy-five - Bing is making his official British stage debut.

Older Blue Eyes is well worth seeing.

Such an entertainer with around 4,000 recorded songs behind him and disc sales running into the hundreds of millions has got to be a bit special.

Bing is unique. There are better singers and better actors. But none who has so consistently projected his talents with such warmth and amiability....

Financial footnote: Bing is not singing for his supper. His fee is going to various charities. The guy's all heart.

Arthur Thirkell.

PITCH STILL PERFECT: Bing Crosby, Palladium. THE TIMES.
With acknowledgements.

His Master's Voice, the man who created the popular song, came to London for the first time for 30 years last night to give his first concerts since the War. Henry Lillis Crosby, who got his name from 'The Bingville Bugle' comic, gave a perfect exhibition of what popular singing can be.

The voice of the Old Groaner may not be quite as smooth now at 72. The range and the register are only just there, but the pitch is still perfect and the tone and phrasing are magical. No one has

ever missed a single word, or a single meaning, of a song that Crosby has sung.

The "strolling player" as he calls himself, treated a rapturous audience to a cross section of some of the four-thousand songs he has recorded in fifty years or more of show-business. Still looking more like a bank clerk than a star, he reminded them of the 300 million records he has sold in 27 languages and 88 countries in that time. It was not difficult to see why, because he beautifully executed the central art of popular songs by conversing directly with his audience.

SWINGING ON A STAR, PENNIES FROM HEAVEN, TRUE LOVE, MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU - Crosby smoothed majestically through them all. He even attempted, perhaps a touch rashly, Stephen Sondheim's SEND IN THE CLOWNS.

But the audience were not listening too closely to his voice. They were caught in the dream, the nostalgia, of the times he sang those songs. From the moment the show opened with excerpts from the British Movietone News of the war and his last performances in Britain, that tone was set.

The man who began with Paul Whiteman reminded everyone that he created a style of singing for Sinatra, Como, Bennett and the rest. He also broke new ground, for while Al Jolson sang at you, Bing sang to you, and none of them ever forgot the lesson. He proved again that he invented the alphabet of popular singing in this century.

Occasionally, perhaps, the stylish show bordered on the mawkish. His family appear, to put it kindly, to no particular effect, but that did not detract from the magic of his voice, and above all, of his style; and he didn't even sing WHITE CHRISTMAS.

Geoffrey Wansell.

There were many other reviews but this gives the effect Bing had on the press. There is much we would quibble about in some of these reviews but the complete picture is much as we wanted it to be. In fact, the shows and Bing had a "fantastic press". It might be said the British press, like the British people, received Bing in handsome fashion. How else could it be?

Many items appeared in the press about Bing on his arrival here - BING 'MAD' AT TICKET TOUTS, and 'I WILL SING FOR EVER, SAYS BING' - this giving the glad news Bing gave to the newspaper men when he arrived at Heathrow Airport:

"I would never consider retiring. I think I would get too bored."

And this is the best news anyone could ever want to hear!

Another delightful story around this time appeared in the LINCOLN ECHO and several other newspapers on the eastern side of the country. It featured our own stylish contributor and was headed:

NEVER A GROAN FROM "OLD GROANER" FANS

On October 18, 1926, the 22-year old Bing Crosby duetted with Al Rinker on a song called I'VE GOT THE GIRL. That was Bing's first commercial recording. So next autumn marks the 50th anniversary of one of the most phenomenal recording careers of all times, during which Bing has amassed 40,000,000 sales in 27 languages in 88 countries.

One of his most diligent devotees is BERT BISHOP, from Chelmsford, Essex, who has a

copy of that historic disc.

He paid £8 for it at an auction five years ago, and was immediately offered £25 for the 78rpm prize. He thinks it could fetch £50 or £60 today.

Not that he would sell. Like any true Crosby collector he would not part with it. 'You can't express its value in money', he said.

Bert, 48, is one of the leading lights of the International Crosby Circle. Dedicated to 'the promotion and appreciation of the world's best-loved entertainer,' it has been going for 26 years.

Members range from an eight-year-old boy to a 92½-year-old enthusiast, all of whom are over the moon with Bing playing his first singing dates in the U.K.

According to Bert, it took some persuasion to induce the Old Groaner to sing live.

"He tends to feel nobody wants to come and see him," explained Bert. "When the project was first mooted he said 'No-one will come'.

"But that's Bing running true to form. He has always had this genuine modesty and humility. He still thinks of himself as Mr. Average Guy."

Unlike many topline super-stars, Bing never acts big-time, and keeps in touch with the Circle with recorded messages and letters.

"He likes to receive letters of general interest and nobody, as far as I know, has ever sent a message to Bing without receiving a reply," said Bert.

"Bing tells his English butler, Alan Fisher: 'If a fan rings, don't turn him away. The fans have put me where I am today.'"

Bert has a sizeable collection of Crosby recordings (350 LPs, 450 78s, 50 45rpm discs). But the master library belongs to fellow Circle member, BOB ROBERTS, of Chatham, Kent, who has earned a mention in the Guinness Book of Records for his Crosbyana collection (1,677 records).

The one Crosby disc Bert would not take on a desert island is the mammoth-selling WHITE CHRISTMAS (135,000,000 sales at the last count).

"It would be a great shame if he goes down in history remembered for his WHITE CHRISTMAS," Bert said.

Bert, who has written to Buckingham Palace suggesting an honour for Bing cannot forsee the retirement of the old master showman. "Music has become his whole life, "he said.

Not only BERT BISHOP, but our colleague BOB ROBERTS featured in this most excellent story.

We should have mentioned above that most of the reviews reprinted - some of them slightly abridged because they covered the same ground - were in most cases accompanied with photographs of Bing with various members of his family.

And we're far from finished with the great events of June/July for on the page following we present some of the individual impressions of our members. They came thick and fast and provide a most important feature of this issue.

Pertinent points of the Palladium for posterity....

Not surprisingly, it seems most of our members turned reporter for the historic Palladium appearances! It would have been disconcerting if they had not. It follows that to include all these individual accounts would require this issue to rival the Domesday Book in volume - even if we omitted all the understandable superlatives such as "fantastic", "superb", "unbelievable", "incredible", "fabulous" and so on! We're not suggesting these descriptions are not accurate and should not have been used - far from it. They HAD to be used to even conservatively describe those performances. But it also follows that a degree of uniformity was thereby obtained in most of the accounts.

Even so, all these excited, exciting, and lovely reports/letters contained one telling, pertinent, point that is well worth sharing. So, it has been decided to present a selection of such points here - the first, as a matter of fact, has already been presented on the inside of the front cover - but bear in mind these are merely fragments from much lengthier letters:

Trevor Wagstaff, Hornchurch, Essex: I thought Bing was marvellous, but if one starts using superlatives where are you going to stop? Someone in the office who is a ----- fan told me before going she didn't really reckon much on Bing, but when she came in next day she said: "I'm converted - unbelievable. Absolutely unbelievable....!" I had pointed out to me people who had come from AUSTRALIA to see the show....we could actually hear the sound which had been recorded by the mobile unit of "That's What Life is All About" when Bing came out and shook hands with a few of us....oh, down there in Gwent you will be able to play Bing's "Cool Water" to good effect?

Mrs. J. Ward, Nottingham: I wanted to write and say how much I enjoyed Bing's show but words fail me. I just couldn't believe he could, at this stage, sound so really great. Better than ever...and his family is lovely. A man sitting beside me asked if it was worth coming from Nottingham for? What a question! I only wish I was back home in Dublin to catch Bing there. He will need some bodyguards there for they really love him in Ireland....

John Milne, Corby, Northants: At last! After 44 years I have seen Bing Crosby. Wonderful, that's all, wonderful. I think Mrs. Crosby deserves a very special 'thank you' not only for her highly decorative and talented contribution to the show but surely her delightful support must be to an extent responsible for Bing's resurgence. But as I watched Bing, unchanged, unchanging, I thought of how his records had sold - and cheered us up - in the depression days; days not to be compared with those easy million-sellers of singers who came along when record players - and money - were a lot more plentiful....

Eileen Knight, West Bromwich: "...we saw Bing's car draw up but so many people were there we had only a blurred vision of a straw hat! I clapped so hard, without realising it when Bing strolled on, my hands seemed quite swollen... but, wasn't he just grand?

KEN BROWN, Pinner, Midd'x: How enormously I enjoyed the Palladium concert - it surpassed all my dreams with Bing on stage practically the whole time! He looked, and sounded, better than I thought possible, and the marathon medley of "oldies", which lasted for almost 40 minutes, was a tremendous bonus. One of my favourite songs was Bing's duet with Kathryn of "My Cup Runneth Over" which I'd not heard him sing before - this was beautifully done and I hope it soon appears on the album(s). It was particularly pleasing to note what a fine sense of comedy his two sons are developing...Rosemary Clooney was in truly excellent voice and looked good, too - what a superb choice to join Bing. I still feel quite delirious and it will take me some days to return to earth.....by the way, that heart-stopper a few weeks before when Bing was in hospital for something lodged in his throat - some papers

reported Bing as saying it was caused by too many "second courses", and others as too many "second choruses"!

JOE WRIGHT, Hucknall, Notts: Very shortly after 7.30 Bing walked on to the stage. He was there before my eyes and an ambition of 44 years was, at last, realised. I would have been satisfied if he'd come on and sang a couple of songs. But what a show! And to come on so quickly with us not having to wait on seat-edge. This was a most kind thought on Bing's part. I'm sure we older friends of Bing (I don't like the word 'fan'!) was in the second half with that lovely and incredible non-stop medley of his older songs. You know, I had to do a lot of thinking to recall any favourite he didn't sing! Now I have just one more ambition left - to meet him in the street, or on the golf-course and say THANK YOU!

STANLEY AUSTIN, Yiewsley, West Drayton: There were some young people there but by and large I thought the average age would be around 50....what a pleasant sight. No jeans, no particularly long hair - everyone well-groomed and the ladies, especially on stage, really lovely. How cool and declious they all looked, despite the heat. And what a break for us 50-year-olds - a show we could really enjoy. Enjoy? Thrill to....there's precious few about these days. My wife and I were trying to remember when we last went to the Palladium. We finally agreed it was during the War and almost certainly for the Crazy Gang. Much as we wanted to listen intently to every note of Bing, every lovely trick of his phrasing, these songs were part of our own personal history. We just HAD to join in and it was delightful to hear how quietly we did it: no raucous chorus singing, just gently and affectionately. Everyone knew every word of every song. We know the recordings by heart, of course - and not only the words, but the tempo, the rhythm - and even the jazz breaks. The utter charm of the real oldies (Million Dollar Baby, I Surrender, Dear; Mississippi Mud) I like to think Bing has a soft spot for them. Bbwed if I know why he bothers with new songs. Leave'em to lesser mortals...only two minor complaints: it didn't last long enough - my hands are still sore!

LES BRICE, Romford, Essex: Family and I returned to the Palladium again last night; with the temperature 104 outside and even more inside, and after a week of non-stop singing I feared for Bing. I needn't have worried! He was superb, and if anything, in better form than on the opening night. His voice, magnificent on the Monday, was beyond belief last night. Even that slightly suspect note on I LOVE TO DANCE when he half sings, half shouts "air" he hit last night with superb panache and ease. He was incredible, as the delirious audience showed. He even invited us to sing along on the medley - said we were a good group and "Do you travel?"

LEN ENNIS, Barrow-in-Furness: Thank goodness we got tickets for the Palladium, for if we hadn't it would have been a tragedy after waiting all these years to see Mr. Crosby. I still cannot believe it. No words of mine could describe, or capture, the magic of that evening, which will live with my wife and I for ever. How a man of his years can perform like that I will never know.

ARTHUR BLOOD, Derby: ...I don't think I heard much of that first song. I just couldn't believe my eyes. There was the man who has thrilled me with his voice for so many years just 15 feet away. A marvellous experience I shall never forget. The atmosphere was electric; the reception we were giving Bing approaching the dimensions he deserved. Kathryn projected herself as a warm and charming person and her dancing a joy to watch. Bing's sons and daughter were equally delightful - and let's not forget Pete Moore. No doubt they too were thrilled to be appearing with Bing - but how hard Pete worked!

All too soon we came to THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT - and at the conclusion not a soul in that vast Palladium audience was sitting. All rose to their feet spontaneously in tribute to this most wonderful man - Bing Crosby. How immaculate he looked; how fit, how young!

GEOFF. VIZARD, Wigan, Lancs: "I have never known any performer to give his devotees value like this before. Bing was really fantastic and his voice, incredibly, really is as good as ever. It was a great thrill on its own, just to know that I was actually seeing the great man himself, together with all those familiar mannerisms we have all grown to love. But to hear that wonderful, rich voice as he sailed effortlessly through all those songs was Heaven. Bing must have sung, or touched on, well over fifty songs in the course of the show and everybody present must have heard at least one of their own special favourites. But for me, he could do no wrong. Bing's lovely wife, Kathryn, and their three fine children, together with Rosemary Clooney, who sang so well, and Ted Rogers an excellent choice as comedian made up a well-balanced programme with the proviso that Bing was never away for long. It would be a gross omission not to mention Joe Bushkin and his brilliant trio and his tremendous piano-playing.....

Editor: I must add a word to the next extracts for the writer is - well, an elderly lady who does not enjoy the best of health. You will appreciate the more her tremendous desire not to miss seeing Bing on this historic occasion:

MRS. ENA HOOLEY, Winchester, Hants: I'll never, never, forget the thrill of actually seeing and hearing Bing sing "Moonlight Becomes You".....there was only one song missing from all those he sang with that quartet, and I wonder why? WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT!....But unlike Cinderella, I had to leave the ball at 9.55pm instead of 12 midnight...Gosh it was a hard thing to do... I was nearly in tears but I had a taxi waiting outside for that special time.

This is another story: you see, here at Winchester one can hardly get a taxi after midnight - it is done as a tremendous favour and during the ride you get all the moans about how hard they've worked all day. Its pathetic to hear them. And not forgetting that they charge the same price for a 3-mile journey (five minutes to them and no traffic about) as my fare cost from Winchester to Waterloo on the train, using my Senior Citizens Rail Card. I find London taxi drivers much cheaper and far more pleasant. But to get to the crux of the matter, being very hard of hearing I asked the attendants at the Palladium if one of them could possibly phone for a taxi for me so that I would not miss my 10.45pm train at Waterloo. Not one of them would help; kept referring me to others. Well, I was at my wit's endand not a little nervous that I would be stranded in London for the night. Then I visited the Ladies where there was a nice old lady attendant. I told her my tale of woe and Lo and Behold! if I was Cinderella, this lovely lady turned out to be a Fairy Godmother.

She said: "Now you go and enjoy the show and come and see me in the interval and I'll let you know what time I've got your taxi to call." And the dear soul crossed her heart. Well, my load was lightened and I certainly enjoyed the first half. At the interval I hurried to the Ladies - and she had everything arranged! I gave her a kiss - and a small tip - and fled back to my seat. The only time the taxi could make it was 9.55 because he - and the others - were so busy.

So I had to leave before the end; as I left my seat, I was so excited I said: "Goodbye, Bing!" He couldn't hear me, of course, but the people sitting beside me did. They laughed and wished me good night and safe journey. Seems to me they understood.

Editor: Fan-ish. Fannish? I care not; that's part of Crosbyana and a dedicated, if not valiant part, I feel. But that's not all this remarkable lady did that day. Consider this:

I'm a member of the RSPCA, a very poor one and I'm afraid what might be termed a 'sleeping" one. But their meeting was being held at the Cafe Royal, Regents Street. I wanted to go to see Mr. Ryder in particular - he is the man who couldn't stand the cruelty in the laboratories. So he dropped out and

wrote a book about what takes place in such places. I had this book put in the public library at Winchester and now it is in great demand. I couldn't finish it myself and was unable to sleep after reading part of it.

So altogether, I killed three birds with one stone as I went to the National Institute for the Deaf in Gower Street as well. All for the price of one railway ticket. I had quite a busy day really. My husband never worries as he knows I'm quite level-headed and will always find a way. There you are, a very satisfied ICC member.

Editor: A remarkable lady spending a quite remarkable day, your Editor/Secretary got quite tired just reading about Ena's day. If she is a "satisfied" ICC members I'm a delighted - and proud - Secretary! I'm sure Ena's efforts will be noted by Bing. Her full address if she has struck a chord with you is:

Mrs. Ena Hooley,
4, Olivers Battery Caravan Park,
Winchester, Hants, SO22 4HG

I'm sure our warmest congratulations on her incredible efforts go to this lady.

And now, its

NIGHTMARE TIME

No doubt many experienced nightmares until their tickets were at last in their hot hand - not least, your Editor! Though even then, it wasn't the end: I had another ....that I got to the Palladium foyer and found I'd left the tickets in South Wales! I did not, of course, but it was a recurring, harrowing, thought... and it all pales into insignificance if you have the strength to read the following letter: it is NOT for the weak in spirit -

Edgar Lawson, Wallasey, Merseyside: How do I begin to tell you about my trip to London? I left Liverpool at four minutes past two, to arrive in London about 4.45pm. Plenty of time to get something to eat and be at the Palladium by seven at the latest. But it went wrong.

A train ahead of us got derailed at Wolverton and we were sent back up to Coventry station where we waited about 1½ hours until another train was announced for us. It was going on a roundabout route and calling at every station, it seemed. We arrived in London at just the time Bing's show was ending. So what was to be the event of my lifetime disappeared....

On the way home, I had to go to Waterloo, Euston and then St. Pancreas Stations, leaving there at 11.35pm. I got back home in Wallasey at 5.50am - a journey scheduled to take 2hrs. 40 mins. That was my night in London. I wonder how many others there were like that?

Editor: No more, I pray!! That wrecked my day, the day I read Edgar's letter. Doesn't your heart literally ache at the venomous trick fate played Edgar Lawson? He is one of those who waited 40 years for this. It just doesn't bear thinking about, does it? The stuff of which nightmare's for life are made....sitting in that wretched train, frantically watching the hours and minutes pass. And irony of ironies, getting to London as the show was finishing.....Poor Edgar. Let's not think too much about it. Apart from the crushing disappointment - absolutely no redress whatever....

Let's turn over quickly but believe us, Edgar, we feel for you.....

HAROLD HANKE, Warley, W. Midlands: Actually, I'm waiting to read all about the Palladium show - just to be sure it really did happen. For me it went, and still seems like, a dream. What a night...bits come back and you think "Gee whiz, didn't he sing that!" But it was so much, so fantastic, I just couldn't really take it in. Let's hope the LPs turn out good - and the telerecording...I suppose that'll he held for Christmas time....

Editor: We feel sure there will at least be news of the UNITED ARTISTS double LP of Bing's stage performance in this issue before it is finished. I think Harold is almost certainly correct about the telerecording. Again, if the news is to hand it'll be in here ...somewhere!

JOHN BIGNELL, Wembley, Midd'x: The impact of the unforgettable first night remains clearest in my mind. That inspired touch of introducing the 40 year old Bing in the newsreel clipping from 1944 at the Stagedoor Canteen was of additional personal interest for me in that it was almost exactly at this time maybe a couple of years earlier, that I really formed my early rapport with our Mr. C. The casual Bing of those days singing "San Fernando Valley" disposed of, the curtains parting with Pete Moore's orchestra playing OLD BLUE there was the same Bing, 32 unbelievable years later, strolling on stage to a gasp of astonishment from an audience expecting the unexpected - and yet dumb-founded when it happened. It gave the show a send-off for which no praise can be too high...and the heat was such that one wondered how even a young man could be on stage so long, night after night, and never falter...and Kathryn! Absolutely stunning!

LIONEL FAIRPOINT, Mill Hill, London: For three months I had been prostrated with back trouble, but needless to say, heavily corsetted and supported by my family, I left my bed for the Palladium...in order to let the kids see what Dad has been raving about all their lives. I don't suppose the "memorables" and the "unforgettables" will ever die away and I can only say that everything anyone ever heard, saw and admired in Bing was displayed, effortlessly, that night.....

ELSIE KENNEDY saw the only solution as an "open letter" to Bing - an excellent idea, too:

Dear Mr. Crosby,

May I, as one of your many admirers, thank you for the wonderful show you gave us at the London Palladium. We knew it would be great, of course, but you exceeded our wildest dreams with the power and beauty of your voice.

I started collecting your records with my first wages, and that was so long ago it tells me you must be getting on, dear Mr. C., yet in 1976 you can still sing the old songs and sound just the same - wonderful. Then you sing a brand new number and show the young ones how its done - even more wonderful.

Thank you again for a very great show and an unforgettable experience, and for all the pleasure you have given us over the years. I hope there is much more.

Meantime, may I wish you and your charming family a pleasant holiday over here for the rest of your stay in our country.

Yours sincerely,

Elsie Kennedy.

Well, that puts it very neatly and was a nice idea of Elsie's.....incidentally, many members expressed some anxiety about Bing's efforts in the unprecedented heatwave, but there can be little doubt that Bing really thrived on his work - golf, horse-racing, aye, and grouse-shooting on the glorious 12th followed in rapid succession!

BARRY UNDERWOOD, Letchworth, Herts: I have in the last few years seen plenty of stage performances - Como, Sinatra, Jack Jones and others. But Bing - easily the best - utterly fantastic! I saw the show on more than one occasion and it seemed to get even better! Bing was in tremendous voice - and that medley!

I was disappointed with Bing and Rosemary Clooney always leaving the theatre by a door other than the stage door. What about his fans who wanted his autograph, shake him by the hand, say a few words. In particular, I mean to ICC members. I expect you managed to get in to see him, also Leslie Gaylor, and other prominent ICC figures. Well, exactly how do we lesser known members get to meet him? We who have neither the time and money to stand outside the Savoy all day?

Editor: To Barry, and any other members who may be sharing his thoughts, I did not see Bing during that fortnight (apart from my seat in the stalls that is); furthermore, I made no effort to go backstage. I certainly do not have the time/money/ energy to stand outside the Savoy or any other hotel. The only time I've met Bing was by invitation to the recording studios early last year. I made no effort to press myself forward because it was clear that despite Bing's astonishing vitality, by the time he reached his dressing-room after that astonishing 3-hour performance, he wanted to relax, unwind, cool off - and almost certainly get to bed. I felt Bing had done enough for his fans without intruding at that particular time. So far as I am aware, indeed, some people did see and greet Bing going in and out of the Palladium, briefly, and only Leslie Gaylor so far as I'm aware, did have access to Bing. I wouldn't quarrel with Leslie's privileged position, either.

As to how "lesser known members" get to Bing - well, if Barry reads BING with even cursory diligence he must be aware that people have met Bing on golf-courses, race-courses, in the street, sometimes in his hotel and other places. It rqquires a bit of ingenuity, a bit of travelling and a bit of time. There is no magic OPEN SESAME, or pass-word. Finally, without wanting to appear a paragaon of human behaviour, as far as I am concerned, while it is true some ICC members are better known than others, none are "lesser" in my opinion. And that goes whether they have a full collection of Bing's records - or half a dozen 78s and a dozen LPs. That they are sufficiently dedicated to Mr. C. to become members is what counts. Agree? But in case I appear hard and unsympathetic, I feel there is a time and a place for autographs &c. I understand the desire to talk to Bing, to get him to sign albums, pictures. And the fact that Bing does indeed do these things thousands of times on any British visit demonstrates, as I have said above, that a little ingenuity, a little time, and a little patience can bring it about. There is no automatic "priority" for leading members of the ICC - if there are indeed any! End of sermon.....oh, I gather that among other items, Bing autographed quite a number of the June issue of BING.....

GEORGE HARWOOD, Huntingdon, Cambs: "...I had the feeling that the audience would have been quite happy to stand there applauding for the rest of the night..one of the most remarkable and satisfying things about the evening for me was that in my party was a 13-year old girl whose father had, in truth, brought her principally to see the famed Palladium - she didn't seem to know who Bing was when told of her trip. What a different story at the end of the performance! The Palladium had most certainly been relegated to the background and Bing is now rated among her 'top five' which is quite incredible as the other four are as far removed from Bing Crosby as one could possibly get - Bay City Rollers, Mud, &c. Sorry to introduce a foreign language! Whilst we were waiting to get into the theatre it was really amazing to hear people, a lot of them younger generation, pleading with the security people to be allowed to go in (they had no tickets) even if it meant standing throughout. And, I understand, they did allow standing at the back of the stalls from that night on...what an unqualified, stupendous, success it all turned out to be...

Editor: That's quite a coincidence: I had that same feeling. The applauding audience were not encouraging Bing to encores. I got the impression, as George did, that it was simply a demonstration of appreciation, respect and affection..

PETER MONAGHAN, Barrhead, Glasgow: My wife and I saw Bing in concert at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh on July 15. A night to remember. He was absolutely fantastic. The standing ovation which he received at the end of the concert was unbelievable. The audience stood and applauded solidly for fifteen munites. They just would not let him leave the stage. Will live in the memory for ever....

MRS. MARGARET McCUNE, Port Glasgow: I finally got to see Bing...a night I shall treasure for the rest of my life. The rest of the show was good, but for me, I just wanted to see this great man. I always felt something when I saw or heard him sing. What it was I couldn't explain but now it has struck me....as though he was a very favourite Uncle of the family. When I was 12 years old it was the time we sent to the film studios for photographs of the stars and I sent for Bing's. I still have the picture and the letter that came with it. My mother liked him, too, and took me to see his films. I am now a Grannie and it is over 30 years later...and I've seen him at the Usher Hall now and it has brought him that much closer now, not just a voice on a record, or a figure in a film....

CYRIL PARKER, Penn, Wolverhampton:....the snatch of BLUE HAWAII, the verse and chorus of TOO-RA-LOO-RA-LOO-RA..was one DREAMING of the golden films? No, this was actually, truly, Bing in person in 1976 singing those golden songs. Yes, it was true. No wonder the audience proclaimed Bing and were, it seemed, content to do that all night.

PAT FORSTER, E. Twickenham, Midd'x: By comments I heard from the crowd coming out at the end and also from friends, I think the greatest impression Bing made on people was by reason of the fact that Bing came on at the very start - and was still on at the end after three hours, and also the incredible resonance and power of his voice after all these years. I saw Bing at Sunningdale not long afterwards and told him how many times I had seen the show. His comment: "You should get your money back!"

RAY McCORMACK, Belfast, N. Ireland: I had never seen Bing before, but having got tickets for the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin, I am now among the privileged who have...not only that, I MET him! When reading some of the reports about Bing being 'as good as ever' I was a little sceptical. But I'm in doubt no more! He was magnificent in Dublin. To me he sounded just the same as on all those recordings of years gone by...how I WANTED to hear them from Bing, but never really EXPECTED to. But I did...when I got to Dublin I went around to the Gaiety to pick up my tickets; and wait by the stage-door but I learned Bing was already inside rehearsing with Rosemary Clooney....others were waiting but gave up after about an hour...knowing I would probably never get another chance, I hung on.... until Geo. O'Reilly came out on some errand. I approached him with BING clutched in my hand...Mr. O'Reilly was politeness itself: and took me backstage to watch Bing rehearsing with the Pete Moore Orchestra. Bing looked very casual, yet deliberate in his movements. And very unapproachable! Then Rosie came and stood beside me, smiling and charming...Bing finally turned and began to walk off-stage..towards me, head lowered as if deep in thought. ...I even FELT pale; but I'd waited so long - "Excuse me Mr. Crosby, may I have your autograph....?" He reached out and took the copy of BING. "What's your name?" said Bing. I told him and he did the good deed. I thanked him. He nodded...and walked away to his dressing room. I expected and wanted no more; but he looked good tho' tired... rehearsing so long and then having to come back to do the show. And, when he did the show, he was magnificent!

The British Institution of Radio Engineers
Association of Professional Engineers
of the Province of Ontario
Kenneth Gilbert Thorne
Professional Engineer

KEEPING TRACK

The quarterly review of what is new - or re-issued - in the way of Bing records to keep you up-to-date and right in the picture. All in the highly readable, very individual style of BERT BISHOP

These columns commence this quarter with a pause, a prelude and a coda.

Actually, we were confident they would commence with a roll of drums and a flourish of trumpets; well, in a literary sense, anyway. But no, the pause is occasioned by the fact that at the time of starting this review the two-record album set of the Palladium concerts have yet to be officially launched. Why? We might well ask!

"Problems with the sleeve..."; "contractual difficulties" (some of the material on the Palladium albums to be issued by United Artists inevitably contains items already issued by Decca); "Bing has yet to find the two hours time to listen to it!" Well, valid obstacles, perhaps, but surely nothing that couldn't have been ironed out a couple of months after the event? Could it be that the Christmas market potential is a more inviting prospect than the July/August holiday period? We readily agree that, mostly at least, the record companies know their job best but hope that we are not kept waiting too long before the release of this unique souvenir album. The attractions of the Christmas market are undeniable; yet it could be argued that the appeal of the albums to the people who attended as close to the event as possible would be an equally cogent appeal? Especially in view of the fact that the Yuletide offerings will certainly include WHITE CHRISTMAS album at least, PLUS an offering that is going to please a great many people. The following letter received by LES BRICE of Romford (to whom we are indebted) gives the clue to a happy Christmas:

> Dear Mr. Brice,
>
> Thank you for your recent letter. You will be very pleased to hear that the album you refer to, THAT CHRISTMAS FEELING, is indeed to be reissued this Autumn on "Music for Pleasure" at only £1.25p under the title CHRISTMAS IS A COMING WITH BING.
>
> We also have a full-price Bing release on MCA planned for November, BING & CO which features twenty tracks in all, including a number of fairly rare duets. I'm sure you will like it.
>
> Thank you for your interest,
> Sincerely,
> Peter Robinson,
> MCA RECORDS.

And I'm sure we going to like this news! Les Brice, like some other readers, keeps up a kind of guerilla warfare with the companies with a view to getting Crosby tracks reissued. He adds he hopes his efforts may have assisted the above "coming attractions". We're sure they did.

But further to the "Palladium" albums, perhaps they will appear as an Editor's Addendum to this main column. If so, it will certainly outshine the rather meagre content here, as judged by recent standards. And let's not forget, either, that we fully expected to be reviewing the Latin American BINGO VIEJO album from Decca. That hasn't materialised as yet.

The two musical expressions referred to at the top of this page, the prelude and coda

are represented by a couple of singles; yes, singles, but both of considerable interest.

WHERE THE MORNING GLORIES GROW/ERES TU (That's You): London HLU 10532 45rpm

Surely every member will be acquainted with the very catchy "A" side of this UK Decca release for it is one of the most popular tracks on the equally popular - tho' controversial - SOUTHERN MEMOIR album. On the reverse side, however, and breaking ground for the projected Latin-American collection - BINGO VIEJO - comes 'old pal Bing' (which is what the album-title means) with the first of the "south of the border" titles that he recorded in September 1954 - ERES TU. No doubt Editor Reg is about to tell us that Los Paraguayos, or Los Diamantes, or Los some-one-or-other sings this in great style! (Stymied! - Editor).

The accompaniment to these two titles is the cause of some concern among many members, bearing in mind that Paul Smith came in for a degree of criticism (not 100 per cent by any means) for the musical solecism of the SOUTHERN MEMOIR arrangements. Or some of them. That facet is less prounounced here, however, and whilst the accompaniment is not exactly lush it does at least retain some semblance of a Latin-American rhythm within the confines of a mainly brass and percussion line-up. Smith plays piano, and eases into the number quite pleasantly and with some restraint. This low-key, muted arrangement is maintained more or less throughout, swinging along with a steady strict-tempo beat. Only the rather brash conclusion puts the finger on the Paul Smith arrangements - uninventive without being traditional.

> It is no novelty to hear Bing singing in other than his native tongue, including Spanish and its dialectic variants - but I'm bound to confess that he sounds more at home with the English verse and chorus....'just like a poem'. His diction on the original Spanish is perfect, but the deliberate delivery of the clipped consonants and sibilant sounds creates some sense of loss in the phrasing. To my ears, at least. In fact, I feel the two sets of lyrics - English and Spanish - in juxtaposition surely illustrates this.

The balance favours Bing, happily, as does the melody - very reminiscent of "This Is My Night to Dream". The gentle undulations within the octave comfortably emphasise the sound of Bing in the 'Seventies, but there is some strain in the upper register, especially on the final C-sharp. In fact it is only the conclusion in both departments - voice and musical accompaniment - that spoils an otherwise very pleasant track. One can say little more of it than it is nice to hear Bing sing any song, any time, anywhere, and that an album of such songs as the Latin-American is surely going to produce at least a couple of stand-out tracks. Let's hope it won't be long before we have the chance to hear them all and pick our own favourites.

HOW ARE THINGS IN GLOCCA MORRA?/HEAT WAVE. United Artists UP 36140 45rpm.

Here we have a coupling from the AT MY TIME OF LIFE album that has been issued - indeed it says on the label 'manufactured' in the Republic of Ireland. The green paper sleeve, illustrated, carries two photographs of Bing, one being the head and shoulders section of the THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT front cover picture, and the other from the PARKINSON series of shots. There is also the outline insignia of EMI fame - silhouette of Bing with Tyrolean pipe and angled pipe - beneath which is the legend: "It Don't Mean a Thing if it Ain't Got that Bing'. Of further interest is the fact that this UA record has been distributed by EMI (Ireland) Ltd., of Dublin, with the EMI black on white label identitication being the most prominent record company feature! In this respect it becomes something of a collectors' item.

As far as can be ascertained the tracks are identical to the LP versions; but in

the release of this follow-up single there is obviously a strong appeal for the Irish market for the GLOCCA MORRA track - possibly the nicest one from the album anyway. One might also add, with some authenticity, that HEATWAVE could hardly have been more topical either! Topical or tropical, for that matter. It is certainly a sizzling version: great accompaniment by the Pete Moore Orchestra by way of an inventive and subjective arrangement. Both vocals are typical of the master - Bing the balladeer and Bing with a beat, to coin a phrase or two. It is likely that this single will not be available over UK record shop counters so British residents and overseas members MAY have to contact Eire members for a copy.

BING CROSBY - HIS GREATEST HITS: ORIGINAL SESSIONS 1946/1952 Musidisc CV1356 (France) 95p.

1. I Got the Blues Hooly Hooly.
2. Big Movie Show in the Sky.
3. Baby Won't You Say you Love Me.
4. Its Just for Today.
5. Why Remind Me?
6. I Do Like.
7. My Heart is a Hobo.
8. I Want to Thank You Folks.

1. I Got the Sun in the Morning.
2. Moonlight Bay.
3. My Sin is in Love (Sic!)
4. The Horse Told Me.
5. Am I in Love?
6. After You've Gone.
7. At Last.
8. Be My Life's Companion.

As may be seen, not only is the LP title something of a misnomer but the track titles are hardly accurate either. For example, MY SIN IS IN LOVE should read MY CYNTHIA'S IN LOVE! Perhaps the titles were taken down over the telephone in which case the phonetic howler becomes comprehensible; and the album IS French so they have, perhaps, more excuse than some of the howlers perpetrated on English/American sleeves. Come to think of it, the title given is quite humourous and taken together perhaps the two versions are complementary! Be that as it may the sleeve carries an eye-catching photo of Bing as he appeared in the "Style" song from the film ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS which has been softly diffused in a pink and yellow wash. The rear of the sleeve has another full-size picture from a film, this time from SAY ONE FOR ME - the pic which also appears in Ken Barnes's book on the song stylists. Altogether, quite an imaginative presentation.

The vocal content is quite a bargain being tracks from PHILCO and Chesterfield shows in the years mentioned on the sleeve. Half of these numbers were on the last all-Bing Windmill LP but it is very good value. Dave Carey at "The Swing Shop" (1b Mitcham Lane, Streatham, London, S.W.16) has this in stock. Actually this LP might have been reviewed in the last issue of BING but just missed the deadline. My thanks, incidentally, to all those who wrote to me about it. It is, of course, another instance of a company getting hold of tapes (with which we have long been familiar) from some source or another and putting them on to disc, a proceeding which may be fraught with hazard as you will by now know! There is quite a rash of them at the moment.

THE MAGNIFICENT AL JOLSON: WINDMILL WMD 273. Around 79p.

1. My Mammy.
2. April Showers (with Bing.)
3. Ma Blushing Rosie (with Bing).
4. Swanee.
5. Alabamy Bounds (features Bing).

1. Oh! Susannah (features Bing).
2. The One I Love (with Bing).
3. Toot, Toot Tootsie.
4. For My Love.
5. Sonny Boy.

Tracks 2 and 3 on Side One, and track 2 on Side Two are from the Philco show of 15th January 1947; the other Bing-oriented tracks come from Philco of 2nd April same year. They are good fidelity even if not the best of the Bing and Jolie duets on radio - and certainly worth picking up for £1 post paid direct from Windmill at the London office: Multiple Sound Distributors Ltd., 120 King Street, London W6 0QU. Mention of the International Crosby Circle when writing is always the thing to do, of course, and here a direct contact with the general manager has been made and a good show of interest from members could prove useful - perhaps even suggestions for further Bing releases of this kind

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT VOL. 2 — UK MGM — US MGM MG-1 5301

This is the second album featuring film soundtrack material from the famous "musicals" studio. Bing features on Side One, Track 6 with the film version of TEMPTATION from the 1933 production GOING HOLLYWOOD. Along with Part One of this soundtrack project it makes for a happy package of memorabilia - though expensive for anyone but the film buffs, perhaps.

BIG BROADCAST OF 1935 — KASHA KING (AMALGAMATED) — US BB-1935

Information to date indicates Bing being featured on Side One, Track 1, with TREASURE ISLAND - ON TREASURE ISLAND being the full song title. This, presumably, is a commercially released version for Bing did not appear in the film of the LP title. Any further information on this album would be gratefully received.

Now, where IS the Palladium set and Bingo Viejo? Ah well, plenty to press on with....

A COUPLE OF SONG & DANCE MEN. — United Artists L-35,799 — Australian.

The Australian continent seems to be quite well severed with Crosby recordings, never lagging far behind. In fact, some of the releases there have quite intriguing variations and often with no British/US equivalent. That doesn't apply in this instance as the content of the above LP is identical to the UK release UAS29888. And speaking of overseas issues, Editor Reg tells me he is getting mail from South Africa as a result of THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT being issued there; New Zealand, too.

AT MY TIME OF LIFE/CHILDREN — K-6351 — Australian.

From the same stable - UNITED ARTISTS - comes another direct equivalent for the very keen and knowledgeable Crosby clan down under; in fact, for collectors the world over. It relates to UK UP36078 issued here.

ITS EASY TO REMEMBER — MCA MAPS 8206 — New Zealand.

Another antipodean album, this time with no equivalent. No further information, either, other than that it features 21 Bing tracks. That's quite a package for it will play for at least an hour. To keep future revisions of "THE BING CROSBY LP-ography " as optima for information, it is requested that members who are acquainted with the details of these 'no detail' albums write to me, Bert Bishop, direct.....thanks.

BOB CROSBY & HIS ORCHESTRA — Jazum 49

Bing content: Side 2, Track 4: YOU MUST HAVE BEEN A BEAUTIFUL BABY- Take -A. This jazzin' version of a Dick Powell song was recorded by the brothers Crosby in 1938. Pity it wasn't the rarer Take -B on this record. JAZUM RECORDS are produced and distributed by William C. Love, 5808 Northumberland Str., Pittsburgh, PA 15217,USA. These albums are handled in Britain by Dave Carey at the Swing Shop, London and probably has it in stock.

THE YEARS TO REMEMBER — Longines 3-LP Boxed Series. — US. (Stereo)

The main title is a group title of a number of boxed sets put out by this well-known jewellery/watch company. Bing is featured on four of those sets of 3 records; one being contained in a thin green card sleeve with notes and contents, under the sub-title of "Panorama", with the other two LPs being in poly-line paper sleeves, identified as Record 1 and Record 2. Full Bing content is as follows:

Set No. 4. ALL TIME HIT PARADE — LS 13 D-1 (Individual LP nos: SYS 5365; SYS5366 and SYS 5367

PANORAMA disc	Side 1, track 5:	FAR AWAY PLACES.
	Side 2, track 2:	MONA LISA.
Record One:	Side 2, track 2:	DON'T FENCE ME IN.

(Cont....

Set No. 5: HOLLYWOOD YESTERDAY LS 13 E-1 (Individual LP nos. SYS5353;5354; 5355.

Record 1. Side 1, track 2: SWEET LEILANI
Record 2. Side 1, track 4: IN THE COOL, COOL, COOL, OF THE EVENING.

Set No. 6: BROADWAY YESTERDAY. LS 13 F-1 (F-1) (Individual LPs Nos. SYS5362; 5363 and 5364)

Record 1. Side 1, track 2: YOURS IS MY HEART ALONE.
Record 2. Side 1, track 1: THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS.
(This set contains an illustrated booklet; and it will be remembered that YOURS IS MY HEART ALONE is the American version of YOU ARE MY HEARTS DELIGHT.)

Set No. 8: GOLDEN HITS OF MEMORY. LS 13 H-1 (Individual LP Nos. SYS5359; 5360; 5361)

"Panorama" disc, Side 2, track 2: MIGHTY LAK A ROSE.
Record 1: Side 2, track 4: DEAR OLD GIRL.
Record 2: Side 2, track 3: IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN.
(This set also contains an illustrated booklet).

BING 'N' AL Volume 6. TOTEM 1017

Side 1: Octoner 16, 1947 KRAFT MUSIC HALL (Jolson host, Bing guest)
Side 2: January 15, 1948 KRAFT MUSIC HALL (Jolson host, Bing guest).

With the release of this Vol. 6 we now have a complete collection on LP of all the half-hour radio performances that these two great artists did together. They cover the years 1947-50, being under the sponsorship of KRAFT, PHILCO and CHESTERFIELD. In fact a recapitulation would not come amiss, so here's a list of the first five LPs - all great material:

TOTEM 1003:	March 5, 1947	BING'S PHILCO RADIO TIME.
	April 2, 1947	" " " "
TOTEM 1007:	December 28, 1949	BING'S CHESTERFIELD.
	January 4, 1950	" "
TOTEM 1013:	February 15, 1950	" "
	November 30, 1949	" "
TOTEM 1015:	December 3, 1947	BING'S PHILCO RADIO TIME.
	May 7, 1947	" " " "
TOTEM 1016:	May 3, 1950	BING'S CHESTERFIELD.
	January 15, 1947	BING'S PHILCO RADIO TIME.

SING YOU SINNERS - LUX RADIO THEATER 1940. TOTEM 1019

A one-hour show in the well known radio series that presented "stars" of the day in potted versions of film scripts adapted for radio, and comedy/drama playlets.

BIRTH OF THE BLUES TOTEM 1020

This album is a further hour in a radio version of the film of the same name. It was broadcast (in America) 23 January 1951, and apart from Bing, stars Dinah Shore, Phil Harris and Red Nichols.

BING CROSBY ON THE AIR, VOL 2 TOTEM 1022

Not up to expected fidelity for sound is this Totem transcription of the KRAFT MUSIC HALL for the 27 May, 1937. This was in the time of the Jimmy Dorsey accompaniment and just prior to Bing's long-standing association with John Scott Trotter. Bing sings some classics like TIMY ON MY HANDS, MY LITTLE BUCKEROO and WHERE ARE YOU, but there is a lot of non-Bing material that one has to suffer, such as Bob Burns and his ghastly bazooka!

Cont. over

HITS FROM THE MOVIES: Columbia CL 1421 (US Mono)

Side 1, track 5: SAY ONE FOR ME. The solo version from the film of the same title.

THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS Capitol SL 6515 (US Stereo)

Side 1, Track 4: DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?. This 1963 recording with Ralph Carmichael's Orchestra and Chorus is almost a sine qua non where Capitol SPECIAL PRODUCTS and SPECIAL MARKETS albums are concerned; it is featured on at least six Christmas LPs. For label collectors only, I imagine.

THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1932: SOUNDTRACK ST-101

As you would expect, this LP presents much of the original film soundtrack. Bing is to be heard singing DINAH, HERE LIES LOVE and PLEASE.

BLUE SKIES. SOUNDTRACK STK-104

Side 1: Everybody Step.
A Couple of Song and Dance Men (With Astaire)
I've Got My Captain Working for me now (with Billy de Wolfe)
Getting Nowhere.
Say It isn't So.
Cuba (with Olga San Juan)
You'd be Surprised (solo by Olga San Juan)
Puttin' on the Ritz (sung and danced by Fred Astaire.)

Side 2: Heatwave (orchestra only)
Blue Skies.
Waltz Medley: You Keep Coming Back Like a Song (a waltz?) What'll I Do?, All Alone; Remember?.

Radio Montage: I'm Puttin All My Eggs in One Basket; Cheek to Cheek; All by Myself.

War Montage: Any Bods Today?; This is the Army, Mr. Jones.
White Christmas; God Bless America.

A Serenade to an old-Fashioned Girl (sung by Joan Caulfield)
Medley: The Little Things in Life; Not for all the Rice in China; Russian Lullaby.

Finale: You Keep Coming Back Like a Song.

As may be seen, this LP is a remarkable presentation - and in excellent sound fidelity - of the Irving Berlin songs that were, or intended to be, featured in the 1945 cinematic production starring Bing and Fred Astaire. Both the Medley and Montage tracks include songs that were deleted from the film, and Bing's solo, SAY IT ISN'T SO, will come as a very pleasant surprise to many who hear this album. This is practically all Bing, and no part of it a commercial recording in the accepted sense. So it will be seen to be very good value even at the IK price of around £4.50 from most importers. Both Harlequin Record Shops and The Swing Shop have this one. The sleeve features caricatures of Bing and Fred with contemporary-to-the-film photographs of their heads sumperimposed in the appropriate places. Highly recommended.

SPOKANE LPS

The well-known record collector/producer, LARRY F. KINDER, PO Box 724, Redmond, WA 98052, USA has sent us a leaflet announcing the above - the novel significance of the label name will be readily apparent! Larry says:

LARRY F. KINDER proudly announces a new label dedicated to the radio performances of BING CROSBY - SPOKANE LPs produced and manufactured under license and by special arrangement with BING CROSBY. All the LPs star Bing Crosby....

1. BING CROSBY ON THE AIR, featuring the complete Woodbury programe of Se.t 18, 1934 with the Boswell Sisters and Georgie Stoll and his Orchestra, and four songs from the Kraft Music Hall 1930's programs and four songs from the Cremo series

of 1931!

2. KRAFT MUSIC HALL: complete broadcast of March 12, 1942, with Pat O'Brien, Wingy Manone, Victor Borge, Mary Martin. Songs: HOW ABOUT YOU?/McNAMARA'S BAND/I DON'T WANT TO WALK WITHOUT YOU/THE STORY OF JENNY/MY DARLING NELLIE GRAY/THAT'S A'PLENTY/ THREE YOUNG FILLIES/WE'RE THE GANG THAT FEEDS THE ARMY/THE ANVIL CHORUS/MISS YOU.

3. KRAFT MUSIC HALL: complete broadcast of April 30, 1942 with Larry Adler, Susan Hayward, Gene Tunney, Victor Borge, Mary Martin. Songs: HEY MABEL, WAIT FOR ME/ HE'S WONDERFUL/FRIENDSHIP/ITS MARY/ITS SOMEBODY ELSE'S MOON, NOT MINE/APPLE BLOSSOM TIME/MALAGUENA/BLUES IN THE NIGHT/OH, HOW I MISS YOU TONIGHT/EMBRACEABLE YOU/I REMEMBER YOU.

4. KRAFT MUSIC HALL: complete broadcast of April 16, 1942 with Spike Jones and his City Slickers, Sabu, Ronald Reagan, Victor Borge, Mary Martin. Songs: K-K-K-KATY/ ARTHUR MURRAY TAUGHT ME DANCING IN A HURRY/MISS YOU/HE COMES FROM TIMBUCK THREE/ MAKE BELIEVE/APPLE BLOSSOM TIME/LITTLE BO PEEP HAS LOST HER JEEP/PASS THE BISCUITS MIRANDY/ITS MARY/THE WAY YOU LOOK TONIGHT/SONG OF THE ISLAND.

5. HAPPY HOLIDAY WITH BING CROSBY: The complete KRAFT MUSIC HALL program of December 21, 1944 including ADESTE FIDELIS/JINGLE BELLS/I DREAM OF YOU/I'M MAKING BELIEVE/ A SLIP OF THE LIP/WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MADE/BEAUTIFUL SAVIOUR/GOD IS EVER BESIDE ME/SILENT NIGHT; plus on side two: HAPPY HOLIDAY/COME TO THE HOLIDAY INN (12.30.43) LET'S START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT (1.1.42) GOD REST YOU, MERRY GENTLEMEN (12.24.42) LET IT SNOW, LET IS SNO (2.14.46)I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (12.7.44) ADESTE FIDELIS (12.24.44) WHITE CHRISTMAS (12.24.44.)

6. DER BINGLE: The complete KRAFT MUSIC HALL programme of September 9, 1943: COMING IN ON A WEEK AND A PRAYER/WAIT FOR ME MARY/BROTHER BILL/STARDUST/ITS ALWAYS YOU/ BASIN ST. BLUES; plus songs THE WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER (12.1.42)/ARMY AIR CORPS SONG (1.22.42) YANKEE DOODLE DANY (2.5.42) I DON'T WANT TO WALK WITHOUT YOU (2.5.42) SONG OF FREEDOM (6.25.42)YOU'D BE SO NICE TO COME HOME TO (1.2843/WHAT DO YOU DO IN THE INFANTRY (8.5.43)

7. KRAFT MUSIC HALL: Complete broadcast of May 27, 1937, with Rudolf Gonz, Sasu Pitts, Gail Patrick, Bob Burns, Jimmy Dorsey & his Orchestra. Songs: HOW COULD YOU?/MY MELANCHOLY BABY/YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE THERE/LAND OF THE SKYBLUE WATER/TIME ON MY HANDS/MY LITTLE BUCKEROO/FORGOTTEN WALTZ/PORT OF THE WINE/LULLABY FOR THE BAZOOKA/ FLIGHT OF THE BUMBLE BEE/WHERE ARE YOU?

These LPs are 5 dollars each postpaid to readers of BING in the USA and Canada; elsewhere, six dollars each - surface mail. Write for airmail rates.

Also available is BING CROSBY - CREMO SINGER - the complete log and directory that includes a large replica of the original poster. 2.50 dollars postpaid anywhere. Send SAE (two International Reply Coupons) for additional information on directories, tapes and records.

That's Larry's announcement; please note some American spellings and date notations i.e. the month comes before the day. Bing is not involved with EVERY song; usually he sang three good solos and often duetted with his guests. Inevitably, there is some over-lapping here with the TOTEM releases, but we are assured that there is no pirating of material on these discs. For UK members who prefer to rely on importers, Dave Carey at the Swing Shop, High St. Streatham, SW. has these ordered.

SEPTEMBER IN THE RAIN has turned up - again! - on the Polydor VERVE SPECIAL album, Cat, 2532-171 entitled THE VOCAL TOUCH. This is the only Bing item and other artists on the LP are Fred Astaire, Mel Torme, Oscar Petersen, Vera Lynn and several others. They seem to be making a habit of these multo-artiste issues. Once again, only label collectors will be interested. Perhaps not even those dedicated fans!

THE BING CROSBY STORY. VOL. 1 Columbia Special Products CE2E-201 2 LP set

This set may well be sub-titled THE EARLY JAZZ YEARS as it is a direct equivalent of the UK release, CBS 66210, and US Epic E2E 201/202.

Record One: CEE 22013

Side 1:
Mississippi Mud (with Trumbauer)
Wa-da-Da.
'Tain't So, Honey, 'Tain't So.
My Suppressed Desire.
Makin' Whoopee!
I'll Get By.
If I Had You.

Side 2:
Can't We be Friends?
Without a Song.
Gay Love.
If I Had A Talking Picture of You.
After You've Gone.
Sweet Sue, Just You.
You Brought a New Kind of Love to Me
Livin' in the Sunlight.

Record Two: CEE 22015.

Side 1:
Let's do It.
The Spell of the Blues.
My Kinda Love.
Till We Meet.
Louise (solo)
Louise (Rhythm Boys)
I Kiss Your Hand, Madame.
Baby, O Where Can you be?

Side 2:
St. Louis Blues (-A)
St. Louis Blues (-B)
How Long Will it Last?
My Woman.
Paradise (-B) but stated as -A)
Lawd, You Made the Night too Long. (edited)
Sweet Georgia Brown (-A)
Cabin in the Cotton.

The contents have been listed for the benefit of many new members who are not acquainted with the original release of this set which really delves back to the grass roots. It also affords the opportunity to tell other new readers that Volume 2 has never been issued, allegedly a few years back because of lack of support! The set was produced by Larry Carr in the States, but issued here to the delight of all Crosby admirers.

A further point of interest has come to light concerning this collection - one that only came to my attention after listening to the version of PARADISE given as Take -B on the recent release of JAZUM 40. It is identical to the take on the above album which has been given on previous sleeves as Take -A. It may also state Take -A on the new collection. Comparison with UK 78s, Brunswick and Columbia, which are both Take -A will satisfy the discerning listener that there is an obvious difference, particularly apparent on the word "understand" in the line "and then she'll understand" and the "la-da-dee-daa" which follows immediately. I think further opinion should be published on this before collection details are altered, however, and cordially invite interested and experienced members to proffer an opinion.

BING CROSBY - EARLY GOLD. Nostalgia Book Club 4-LP Boxed Set. US.

This rather interesting collection comprises the two records listed above (THE EARLY JAZZ YEARS) and the two LPS which make up the BING CROSBY IN HOLLYWOOD 1930-1934 UK CBS 66206 double LP. Having listed one pair there will be need only to list the second duo:

Happy Feet.
A Bench in the Park (with Brox Sisters)
A Bench in the Park (Rhythm Boys)
I Like to do things for You.
So the Bluebirds & The Blackbirds...
Song of the Dawn.
(remainder non-Bing)

Dinah (with Mills Brothers)
Please.
Here Lies Love.
Learn to Croon.
Moonstruck.
Down the old Ox Road.
Thanks.
The Day you Came Along.

I Guess it had to be That Way.
Black Moonlight.
Just an Echo in the Valley
Beautiful Girl.
After Sundown.

Love Thy Neighbour.
Once in a Blue Moon.
Goodnight, Lovely Little Lady.
May I?
She Walks Like You.

(Cont...

We'll Make Hay While the Sun Shines. I'm Hummin', I'm Whistlin'...
Temptation. Love in Bloom.
Our Big Love Scene. Straight from the Shoulder.

In the illustrated brochure relatingto the collection there is a black and white picture of the box containing the four records. The box cover comprises a montage of a signed publicity photograph of Bing over a shot from an early film where he is singing with a band. A golf ball, tees and a pipe complete the illustration. In the left-hand corner there is a number which close inspections reveals as M 13153 over a Columbia Special Products label insignia.

The Nostalgia Book Club operates from 165 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10801, U.S.A. and is a club which releases records as well as books. For members of the NBC the club price of the Bing 4-lp collection is 12.95 dollars, but new members of the NBC may obtain the collection for the special privilege price on joining of 1.50 dollars - which can't be bad! NBC members are, however, on a minimum purchase obligation for a two-year period - about three books or records. It is suggested that ICC members who are interested write to the NBC at the address given. Please mention that you are a member of the International Crosby Circle and that you have been acquainted with the NBC thro' BING magazine.

Editor: Another comprehensive round-up by Bert Bishop. Indication is given where possible where these records may be obtained when they are not normal UK commercial releases. It is appreciated that many members will not be in a position to obtain all the sets/albums mentioned but they are included for the sake of completeness in KEEPING TRACK of what is being issued of Bing wherever it occurs in the world.

We said Bert always produced a "literary" effort; I would refer you way back in this story - page. 28 to be precise - when he says: "...the Paul Smith arrangements - uninventive without being traditional". What a telling phrase! Describing exactly some of my feelings. And could this not be paraphrased as tearing down a beautiful cathedral - and erecting a corrugated iron warehouse? However, we'll not belabour the point but await the Latin-American album. Bert Bishop (address in front of magazine) does welcome news of all Crosby records, especially from overseas readers, European and American, and such co-operation is warmly appreciated.

DISCORD DEPARTMENT ! Discord and Crosbyana are contradictory terms; yet on very, very, rare occasions a degree of misunderstanding arises and causes a few ripples. The least we can do in those cases is to try and pour oil on troubled waters - or better still, present both sides of the coin!

Many readers will have seen in the DAILY MAIL of a few weeks back a report to the effect that PRESIDENT RECORDS have been successfully prosecuted and fined £100 under the Trades Description Act in respect of their issuing of the budget album BING CROSBY AT HIS EXTRA SPECIALE. The case was brought by the Consumers Council and the name of Dave Smith was heavily involved in the newspaper reports.

In court the representatives of the company said that the record was being withdrawn and this has aroused the considerable ire of some readers. I must confess I myself have had only one letter on the subject - from NORMAN TOOGOOD of Southampton - but our No. 1 member, LESLIE GAYLOR, also had a letter printed in MUSIC WEEK, deploring the action - and asking WHO IS THIS DAVE SMITH WHO CALLS HIMSELF AN ARDENT BING CROSBY ADMIRER?

That last question is easily answered: Dave Smith is a long-time member of the ICC, and he IS a considerable collector and a very knowle eable one, too. He has had much correspondence with Bing and exchanged gifts with him. Very recently, Bing actually wrote to Dave's aged mother when she was in hospital. As a matter of fact, Les Gaylor and I were photographed with Bing at Chappells last year when Dave presented a handsome

plaque to Bing. So that's who Dave Smith of Newcastle is - the case was heard at Newcastle. Dave was brought into the affair merely because he IS a Crosby expert; the Consumers Council had received complaints from other customers.

I would never have dreamed of bringing such an action; in retrospect perhaps Dave wouldn't either. But, the action in no way surprised me. If you turn to the relevant issue of BING at the time this album was issued it will be seen that apprehensions were felt that this album might be harmful to Bing's image. It is irrelevant to say the album cost only 99p; in these days of the Trades Description Act people buy records. They may or may not like the contents BUT they expect it to bear out its description.

In his letter in Music Week, Leslie refers to "staunch Crosby fans" and "the world of Crosbyana". Norman Toogood in HIS letter refers to "keen students of Crosbyana". And here, in my view, is the crux of the matter. The ordinary, or casual, record buyer does not necessarily come into those categories. We who are in those categories did welcome this album because we know its historical importance and value. Norman also asked how Dave Smith could know that Bing wouldn't have approved of this record? I think its a fair assumption that he would NOT. And it is fairly certain that Ken Barnes, United Artists, Geoff. Milne and Decca, not to mention MCA/EMI do not appreciate having these pirated albums alongside their efforts in record shops. True there is a big difference in price; but anyone buying a Windmill (for the same thing applies to the historic records they are putting out) is hardly going to be encouraged to buy an expensive Crosby record after hearing the "historic" one, for he/she doesn't know the background.

Now, all this could have been happily, and so easily, resolved if President Records, and any other company issuing such albums, would include a note that read something like this:

THE RECORDINGS ON THIS ALBUM, WHILE OF PRICELESS VALUE TO CROSBY ADMIRERS, AND TO THE POPULAR MUSIC WORLD IN GENERAL, ARE NOT MODERN AND CONTAIN CERTAIN TECHNICAL SHORTCOMINGS. FURTHERMORE, ONLY THE TITLES INDICATED ARE SUNG BY BING CROSBY; THE OTHERS NEVERTHELESS ARE BOUND UP WITH CROSBY INTEREST.

But what did the representatives of President Records say in Court in their defence? THAT THEY HADN'T EVEN HEARD THE RECORD!

Decca and EMI have seen fit to add cautionary notes on the lines of the above when issuing vintage albums. President Records could easily have covered themselves - and protected, if not enhanced, Bing's present and more orthodox commercial recordings. As regards Windmill's efforts, I have learned that at least two shops have had their Crosby album returned and money back demanded. Its going to happen unless these off-beat tapings aren't carefully vetted and accurately described. But what concerns me most is that they can be no help to Bing. All very well for us, who have had the recordings on tape anyway for years.....but there is this other viewpoint.

Secondly, in the last issue of BING, in the utmost good faith, we printed an account of a show Bing did in the Los Angeles Music Center. This had been sent to us by an American member (who must now remain anonymous!) in the belief that it would be of great interest in view of Bing's (then) forthcoming concerts in Britain. We shared that view. Most regrettably, we got names round the wrong way and ascribed this excellent description to Dot Hardiman. An understandably indignant letter then came from Miss Pat Sullivan in the States demanding to know how we had come to print what turned out to be a private letter written by her good self!

We can only outline the circumstances - and offer our sincere apologies to Pat Sullivan for this inexplicable mix-up. And also do our best to ensure that nothing like it happens again. But, we did enjoy the letter.....

THOSE FALLING LEAVES.....

Ah, a lyrical way to introduce the news many have been waiting for....but the falling leaves in Roundhay Park, Leeds in Autumn - when else? - will herald yet another of the ICC's annual get-togethers, meeting, party, reunion: call it what you will. Some hate the Autumn, the summer is really gone, the brilliance of the greenery turning purple, brown, darker green is small consolation that we are reminddd that the beauty is decaying. The optimists say its lovely - and sure evidence that the lovely trees, plants, shrubbery will be born again in just a short while. Get Christmas over, that is.... Certainly a lovely park can be a lovely sight in Autumn - and in the process, make a beautiful backdrop for our Crosby "annual". So, to cut the lyricism, and the bittersweet melancholy, let's proceed to announce:

THE ANNUAL MEETING/PARTY/DINNER OF THE ICC

will be held on SUNDAY

OCTOBER 17TH 1976

at the MANSION HOTEL, ROUNDHAY PARK,

LEEDS.

Proceedings will start at 3.00pm and go on

until 10.30pm at the earliest.

Tickets reflect the inflationary times: £3.40 per person. This includes, of course, full course dinner plus the use of one of this hotel's lounges and dining rooms.

TICKETS TO BE ORDERED DIRECT FROM:

MICHAEL CRAMPTON, ESQ.,
19, Carrholm Crescent,
Chapel Allerton,
LEEDS, LS7 2NL.
West Yorks

and NOT from the Secretary: Mike is the organising "man on the spot". Mike kindly states he will be happy to arrange overnight for members requiring same but you must, obviously, let him know as soon as possible.

At which point, newer members may be exclaiming: "WHY LEEDS?"

The quick answer is that Leeds has become traditional - this is the eleventh consecutive annual meeting there for it was Michael Crampton who had the great inspiration to initiate these events when he was little more than a boy. He's still a young man! At first, it was at his home....but that was outgrown and now we have settled for one of the nicest hotels in Leeds in, as indicated above, a beautiful park. An excellent meal and comfortable facilities were enjoyed there last year, as all present will testify.

And it should be pointed out that owing to the widespread nature of our membership any meeting place would involve travelling for probably 90 per cent of the members attending. Life's like that.....but Leeds is very, very convenient. It is served by motorways from all directions right into its very centre. It is also served by, for these days, an excellent train service.

Members are also invited to submit, with their ticket applications, their request for a Bing record to be played during the proceedings. There will be a change in the style of presenting these requests this year: the list is of necessity lengthy, and has always been in the capable hands of MICK DRURY who adds a highly acceptable commentary to the tapes (the requests are linked on one tape for convenience). But, experience has shewn that it is unfair on the commentator - Mick - and on the time that must be allocated for listening to it, which can be 3 hours or more! So this year, while all requests will be played, only a dozen or so will be picked out of a hat for personal introduction by Mick while we listen to his unfailingly human and humorous comments.

CHARLES THOMPSON author of the latest Bing book, BING, is being invited to talk to members. KEN BARNES, now needing no introduction at all, will also be invited and there is every hope that if it can possibly be accommodated Ken will be accompanied by Pete Moore.

Experience has shewn, says Michael, that little in the way of entertainment need be arranged for when the kindred spirits of Crosbyana find themselves together the talk just flows...and flows.....and the records are played....but Mike also requests us not to omit the following:

"The Secretary's address to the meeting is now an established feature and we all look forward to its inclusion this year..."

Ah well, Mike said it!

So, those intending to attend are asked to get in touch with Michael as soon as possible. We are well aware there may be a big increase in the attendance this year so if its necessary to rebuild the hotel, we'll need as much notice as possible! That's the date October 17 - all roads lead to Leeds.....

We cannot say here's two for the price of one for it wouldn't be true: but yet another Crosby get-together is announced - and organised - by our former Secretary, FRANK MURPHY as:

50th RECORDING

NORTH-EAST CONVENTION: ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday October 23, 1976; to be held at THE RED HOUSE, SANDHILL, THE QUAYSIDE, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

From 6pm to 11 pm. Tickets £1.50 which will include buffet supper. Other refreshments available with licensed bar. The programme - with FRANK MURPHY as Master of Ceremonies - will include:

Display of the Crosby Photograph Gallery:
Bing Crosby Disco (!)
Record and photo stall.

Bing has been invited to honor the proceedings with a personal greeting, on tape.

Crosby letters and other unique items.
Philco Radio Time on tape.
Films: Mack Sennet's SING BING SING; WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT, and Bing at the Palladium stage-door 1976.

In connection with this innovation, Frank Murphy writes: Following a hectic round of radio and press "plugs" with more to follow as the date draws near it is obvious that early application for tickets is essential as the accommodation must be limited to 120; indications have been received already from around 70 people. We have, however, taken the precaution of booking for the following day, Sunday Oct. 24 as well so that we can

50th ANNIVERSARY

BING CROSBY

CONVENTION

1926 – 1976

PRESENTED BY

FRANK MURPHY AND JOHN JOYCE

SIX GLORIOUS DECADES OF CROSBYANA

THE 20's – 30's – 40's – 50's – 60's – 70's

SATURDAY, 23rd AND SUNDAY, 24th OCTOBER, 1976

6 p.m. till 11 p.m.

RED HOUSE

THE QUAYSIDE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

make it a two-day event if necessary. When you apply for tickets, therefore, will you please indicate your willingness to transfer to the 24th in the event of the 23rd being "sold out". Don't miss this great night with Bing and Crosby friends in the North East.

FRANK MURPHY, 32 Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear, NE28 7NE

Well, you will have to go considerably further north to attend this one. There is a large body of Crosby enthusiasm in the area and a successful event seems assured. Frank works tirelessly for the Crosby effort in the Newcastle area as he did, of course, when founding and when Secretary of the ICC. Several newspaper stories have already been inspired by Frank's idea one of which, from the front page of WALLSEND NEWS reads as follows:

> Bing Crosby's number one fan in Wallsend is organising a 50th anniversary convention of the singer's first record to take place in Newcastle in October.
>
> Mr. Frank Murphy of Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, has met Bing Crosby on a number of occasions and he knows his family well. A convention marking his 50 years in showbusiness is taking place in America at the moment and Mr. Murphy has decided to hold one in Newcastle, too.
>
> It will be at the Red House on the Quayside on October 23 and there will be records, tapes and photographs of Bing on show.
>
> Mr. Murphy said: "We will be celebrating the birthday of Bing's first record, called I'VE GOT THE GIRL, which was released on October 18, 1926.
>
> "He really came up through show business the hard way. When he first released records he did not even have his name on them. He was the chorus - but we all know what a big star he has since become."
>
> Mr. Murphy is expecting a tickets sell-out and he may extend the the convention an extra day if there is sufficient demand.

This story was headed: BING'S TOP FAN MAKES A DATE....it reminds your Editor that quite a number of members are getting themselves into the press these days and are being hailed, in the locality, as BING'S TOP FAN! And this is good - why not? Perhaps we DO all consider ourselves Bing's top fan though it must be confessed that in some cases the members so described are a little abashed for it has been the local reporter who has handed them that accolade. But the more press reports on our members and their activities the better, say I. Frank has always had a rare instinct for publicity; he tells me now that he has television interested in his Newcastle project! Frank also feels that his "show" will complement the Leeds meeting and help to make for yet another milestone in this memorable year of Bing Crosby.

As we confidently expected, Bing has been turning up all over the place following the conclusion of his stage appearances in London, Dublin and Edinburgh. He's been at the races, on the golf-courses, bagging grouse on the "glorious 12th" and in most cases been grabbed for an interview on radio, mentioned on TV as being in the "gallery" - and certainly interviewed by our member LEN HAYES, 19 High Street, Langley, Slough, Bucks. A story appeared in the EVENING MAIL on July 16 - this paper has a wide circulation in the Thames Valley taking in towns like Slough, Staines and others in the area. It was accompanied by a picture of Len holding aloft some photographs and read:

BING SINGS OUR PRAISES - Through Superfan: Evening Mail Reporter.

Bing Crosby likes the Evening Mail. So much so that he has written to one of his superfans, Len Hayes of Slough, to ask him to send him copies of a picture taken by our photographer on Bing's last trip to Britain.

'I suppose he just took a fancy to the picture,' says Mr. Hayes. 'It is certainly a very good picture.'

Mr. Hayes, 50, an assistant inspeftor at Slough Post Office who lives in High St. Langley, has been a fan of Bing Crosby for more than 30 years and has more than 200 LPs by the Old Groaner.

On Bing's present visit to this country, Mr. Hayes saw his show at the London Palladium five times and shortly afterwards sent Bing a newspaper cutting taken from the Evening Mail showing him playing golf at Sunningdale. Bing is a great golf fanatic - 'I think he enjoys playing golf more than singing these days,' says Mr. Hayes and asked for some copies of the best picture which showed him playing golf.

Mr. Hayes got the pictures from us and they will soon be on their way to join the Crosby album.

Mr. Hayes is not only a great admirer of Bing Crosby the singer, but Bing Crosby the man, too. Whenever he writes to him he always receives a friendly reply. He is also a keen member of the International Crosby Circle which keeps Crosby fans in touch with the latest information on the 72-year-old entertainer.

For the sequel to this story please see the picture and further story we have reproduced elsewhere when Len personally presented the photographs to Bing at Sunningdale. Among the EVENING MAIL pictures was the one we featured in BING - that of Bing playing with an attractive young female golfer who is really doubled up in mirth at something Bing has said. Bing wasn't unmoved, either !

Len adds: "It was a great thrill, being photographed with Bing, as you can well imagine..." Yes, we can...

I've always been a bit chary of criticising the Post Office for I am well aware some of our members are bound to be employed by that august institution. Just as well, I suppose with Len Hayes turning out to be an assistant inspector! But here's a little point to make you think: In the last issue of BING I omitted the town name (CWMBRAN) from my address! So it read 7, Greenmeadow Close, GWENT, NP4 3NR....I suppose it says something for the awareness of the ICC that all the letters so addressed did reach me. But on at least three-quarters of them was written the time-honoured phrase: TRY CWMBRAN.

Now, what I am curious about, is that all these letters did, as we are always being urged, contain the postal code: NP4 3NR. And this we're told pinpoints out address: wo why TRY CWMBRAN? I'm sure there is a reasonable answer!

DO NOT CONFUSE THE LEEDS AND NEWCASTLE FUNCTIONS: ALL MEMBERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND EITHER OR BOTH. IT IS APPRECIATED, HOWEVER, THAT TRAVELLING AND POSSIBLE OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION MAY MAKE IT E TEMELY DIFFICULT FOR MANY PEOPLE TO ATTEND. BUT, THE MORE THE MERRIER.

The 'Old Groaner' keeps Len out of bed

Evening Mail Reporter

NIGHT worker Len Hayes gave up his bed to walk round a golf course.

But rather than watching the golf at Sunningdale he spent the day keeping an admiring eye on singing super star Bing Crosby.

For Len is Bing's number one fan in the Thames Valley and his day was made when the "Old Groaner" accepted copies of Evening Mail pictures taken of him at the golf course last year.

Len, 48, an assistant inspector with Slough Post Office, lives in High Street, Langley, and has been a Bing Crosby fan for 40 years. He owns more than 1000 of his records including 200 LPs.

As a permanent night shift worker Len should have spent the day in bed freshening up for last night's shift at 10.30 p.m. Instead, he went straight from work to Sunningdale Golf Club to watch Bing take part in a celebrity Pro-Am tournament to launch this year's Colgate European Women's Golf Championships which started today.

● Celebrity golf story and pictures — Page 3.

With Len went Lawrence Rampton, 51, of Wilford Road, Langley, a childhood friend of Len's and Bing's number two fan in the village.

"Bing said he was very pleased with the Evening Mail pictures. He said they were very good shots," said Len, who chatted with Bing as he followed him round the 18 holes for four hours.

● Len Hayes shows Bing Crosby the Evening Mail pictures.

Plan for Crosby night in North

A 50th anniversary convention for the Old Groaner, Bing Crosby, is to be held on Tyneside.

The convention, in October, has been arranged by the singer's number one North-East fan, 45-year-old Frank Murphy.

Mr. Murphy, a bingo club manager, of Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, who has met his idol several times, has written to him asking for a tape - recorded message.

He said: "Already we have had an overwhelming response from people who want tickets.

"It is a follow-up to Bing's U.K. tour in his anniversary year, which was a great success.

"The North-East always seems to get left out of things like this, so I decided to do something."

He has booked the Red House on Newcastle Quayside, which holds 120 people, for the golden era tape, records, and films evening.

Nice, croons Bing

Reporter: Gillian Howick

BING CROSBY paid a flying visit to Ashington on Thursday evening . . . and had a 'really nice' meal.

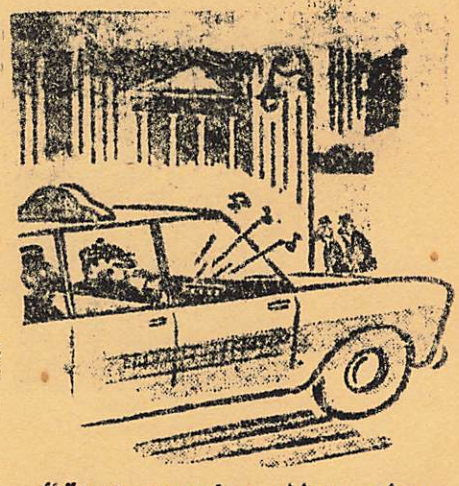
The American star dined at the Old Smithy Restaurant, off the London Road. He was among a party of guests of Capt. H. Ryan Price, the Findon racehorse trainer.

'Mr Crosby visited the stables with the owner of Bruni, one of our leading horses,' said Mr R. Johnson, Captain Ryan Price's secretary.

Last week Mr Crosby was at the Goodwood races. 'He came to the Findon area just for the evening,' said Mr Johnson.

A special menu was prepared for the dinner, and Mr Douglas Kallen, partner of the Old Smithy, said, 'It was all very relaxed.'

'I spoke to Mr Crosby when he came in and as he was leaving he said, "Boy, that was really nice".'



"Start worrying, Mac, when they re-issue Crosby's Buddy Can You Spare A Dime!"

BING ON THE BOX

by BERT BISHOP

It may be that I have been less attentive than usual and missed something but Bing on the box has been rather conspicuous by his absence during his summer sojourn here. It would not surprise me if Bing himself called a halt; he did remark on the number of "chats" he'd been subjected to on the previous visit - and asked the same questions. The only appearance I've heard of was when he and his family were invited to London's County Hall. His short address to the dignitaries was aired by LBC radio on June 29. Bing praised the working of the administration and stated yet again his love for London, noting its amenities. By way of a postscript to this short broadcast, Pat Forster sent me a copy of Hansard (the official record of British Parliamentary business) for July 12. Following an address by the Under-Secretary for the Environment, Mr. Arthur Lewis, MP for Newham replied:

> "Is my hon. friend aware that a great American whom we all love and admire, Bing Crosby, has said that he makes a point of coming to London at least once a year because it is the best city in the world?"

Bing in books? Well, Hansard is a book that will be preserved until Doomsday!

Unconnected with the box/radio was the signal honour Bing received when the ultimate in British recognition was afforded him and his family - an invitation to Buckingham Palace to meet Prince Philip and HM The Queen ostensibly to thank him for his charitable donations as a result of the British appearances on stage. Many pictures of the meeting were seen in the press and members cannot have missed them. These showed Bing to be his usual relaxed, yet genial, self in the company of HRH. It is not difficult to imagine that the two of them were of the type and personality to hit it off! May we hope that this portends what we've all so earnestly wanted for Bing - recognition in the British Honours List? Bing is as British as he is American - or Mexican, or French, Spanish, Italian.....the world figure in truth!

Friday June 25, while Bing was in his first Palladium week, BBC screened again the historic film KING OF JAZZ. It gave members a rare opportunity of comparing the contemporary Bing with the young Rhythm Boy, with his foot on the first rung of the cinematic ladder. In retrospect, he was well featured in that film despite his comparatively lowly status in the Whiteman band. Actually, Bing's was the first singing voice heard with "Music Hath Charms" played over the film's credits. The Bluebirds & the Blackbirds came over as electrically as ever and even without 46 years hindsight Bing was clearly someone to watch! One wonders if Bing and his family watched the film after their performance at the Palladium? And I wonder if Mr. C. was teased?

There was a nice nod to Bing in BBC radio's WOMAN'S HOUR on July 1 when the MARK TWAIN set was reviewed. After a laudatory introduction a considerable section of the story was featured - a departure from the norm in such reviews; seems they just couldn't life the stylus on 'Bing crooning his way thro' Mark Twain!"

In addition to KING OF JAZZ, mail indicates that Bing films have been shew in the regions - among them BELLS OF ST. MARY'S. The screening of THE COUNTRY GIRL on Sat., July 24 was something of a mixed blessing. Always keen, of course, to see and hear Bing I'm bound to say that this film is one picture that I wish he had not made. Bing has said of himself that 'I play Bing Crosby in every picture' - and to an extent, this is true. Bing has almost always been in character to a greater or lesser degree - the relaxed, easy-goin' fella, crooning his way through even desperate adventures with a benign nonchalance. To cast him as the pathetic, self-pitying alcoholic he played in COUNTRY GIRL was surely the faux pas of 1954. True there were two fairly good songs, 'The Pitchman' and 'Dissertation' but otherwise the only truly acceptable thing about the film was William Holden as the theatrical director. I shall never know how Grace Kelly won an Oscar for her role. It must have been a bad year for acting performances.

A rather special Independence Day had Bing featured in BBC R2's HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD - a Celebration of 50 Years of Films Musicals, Part 4. "An Actor's Life for Me" narrated by Douglas Fairbanks Jnr was devoted entirely to 'Bing Crosby's transition from band singer to film star'. Quite an interesting hour liberally sprinkled with commercial records, film soundtracks and anecdotes from Bing himself, Fred Astaire, Johnny Mercer, Donald O'Connor, Majorie Reynolds, Leo Robin the lyricist and others. Fairbanks noted that if genius is doing the right thing in the right place at the right time, then Bing is definitely a genius. There could be other reasons.

> And yes indeed, Bing did take time off during the Palladium run to introduce a tribute to Johnny Mercer following the death of the songwriter. Bing and Johnny had much in common over the years, not least that Johnny tried to fill the void in the Whiteman band! His songs speak for themselves - and Crosby admirers will always appreciate the duets the younger Johnny put on record with Bing - principally, perhaps, MR. GALLAGHER AND MR. SHEAN though, of course, Bing and Johnny sang together on record quite recently. Johnny Mercer's death was unexpected and his is a sad loss. No doubt Bing felt it keenly.

After the long hot summer the August Bank holiday turned rather wet in most UK areas and provided a good reason to stay home and travel the ROAD TO UTOPIA, beginning at 1.45pm on BBC2. Of all the ROAD films this one must have the most plot - the most complicated plot. No wonder even Robert Benchley, the celebrated humorist there to explain events was bemused. Perhaps, also, not the funniest of the series but it has some rare cameos. Great songs, too, especially WELCOME TO MY DREAMS - high on my list of ROAD ballads.

The Corporation are still reluctant to commit themselves on a Bing film season, tho' we understand it is still a possibility.

We're indebted to RAY FORSTER, Broad Green, Liverpool who, during an enforced rest (he says!) heard Pete Murray interviewing Robert Paterson on BBC Radio 2. Ray sent a verbatim report of the programme - one we would have missed otherwise:

Pete Murray: Many listeners would like to know - I know we've talked a lot about Bing Crosby on this programme - but your views of Bing, I think, would be interesting as you're the impressario of the show at the Palladium.

Robert Paterson: Well, its an amazing experience. I mean, every night's an opening night. I think we've done three shows now. Monday there was an ovation that everybody at the Palladium said they've never seen before in their lives - and its got more and more - last night was absolutely extraordinary. I don't think I've known, ever, a show which an artist has been obviously as much loved as that. And the emotion in that theatre! People in tears...its quite remarkable, it really is.

P.M. I think I'm right in saying its the first time he's ever appeared at the Palladium?

R.P: Oh, its the first time he's appeared at the Palladium certainly, but all he's ever done in his life is a charity performance at the Stoll Theatre and then, of course, that much publicised at the time appearance at the opening of the Stage Door Canteen in 1944 in the War in which Anthony Eden appeared...and so really its the debut, its 50 years in show business - and his debut in London!

P.M: Did he take a lot of persuading to come to London for the Palladium?

R.P: Yes - we made contact, he comes here every year to play golf and he loves Britain - and I contacted him some time ago, and every time I was in California I'd give him a ring, or talk to the chairman of Bing Crosby Enterprises and slowly it came together. Then he did a couple of shows in America and he slowly started getting ideas about a show in his mind and I was asked to make suggestions about who should be on the show; how the format should be, what

kind of show - and over the months it evolved and he finally said 'yes'. I couldn't believe it. I said 'let me sit down!'...I simply couldn't believe it....

P.M: I believe the show integrates well because apart from Rosemary Clooney, who sings not only with Bing but solo, and Ted Rogers is involved as well.

R.P: Ted Rogers - he wanted an English comic and Ted was fortunately free and is marvellous and then he has the family and Joe Bushkin who is quite the most incredible jazz pianist I've ever heard, stunning, marvellous man. Yes, its very well integrated...

P.M: Well thank you very much indeed Robert for coming in and giving us a little insight into the people that probably don't get the credit they deserve - the people who present the shows.

OUR MEMBERS..... Is it possible that Chas. Thompson's book, as a hard-cover, was a pilot run for the paperback? It was odd how it came on the market - and very quickly disappeared with shops unable to say whether or not they could get further supplies. Anyway, as we all know, it has now reappeared as a paperback at 70p - and indeed, most W.H.Smith's shops list it in the Top Ten of that category. But no doubt it was observed that Smith's committed some sort of heresy in advertising the book in connection with "Ol' Blue Eyes!"

Frank Toombs, Farnham, Surrey, couldn't take this and wrote to Smith's: In yesterday's DAILY TELEGRAPH you advertised a Star Book entitled BING - A Biography of Bing Crosby and you refer to him as 'Old Blue Eyes'. I have been a fan of Bing for some 40 years but I cannot recall his being referred to as 'Old Blue Eyes'. On the other hand, I think his so-called rival, Frank Sinatra, is...have you dropped a large-sized clanger..?

To which W.H.Smith's replied: You are indeed correct in your assertion that this is Frank Sinatra's nickname and we can only apologise for dropping a rather loud clanger. Steps are being taken to prevent a repetition of this error. I would like to thank you for drawing this matter to our attention. (So I should think! Ed.)

Tony Bulmer wrote me an urgent card to get me to tell all ICC members to vote for Bing in the Melody Maker's "vocalist" poll! I can only applaud Tony's enthusiasm, but the only way to let members know (few can read the MM these days) was by a rather expensive circular. And there wasn't time anyway. And I must confess, I would rather leave well alone. Imagine Bing coming second, or third, to Dave Bowie and Gary Glitter! I mean, that's the sort of vote MM caters for mainly these days.....

I venture to suggest that ROY GUNSON, of Branthwaite, Nr. Workington, is the only member with a handsome dressed-stone bridge fording a stream in his garden, bearing an equally handsome plaque: BING CROSBY BRIDGE, 1966. I haven't seen this impressive structure but have a couple of excellent colour pictures of it from Roy - who has just joined us. Seems: "If I had a dream it was to meet, or just see in the flesh, Bing...and it came about when Bing did his Cockermouth film just 10 years ago. At the time I was constructing a house, and the land necessitated this bridge - so what else to call it? It was only last year, however, that I wrote to Bing telling him about "his" bridge and I received a wonderful reply -

'You should be very proud of the bridge and I am very proud to have my name associated with it. I'll have to get up and see it some day if I'm ever invited up to the Derwent River to fish again at Cockermouth....Bing.'

Roy saw Bing both at the Palladium and the Usher Hall, and a final word: It was out of this world - both occasions. From its photographs, that bridge is going to stand for eternity! A nice story, Roy.

Yes, Cockermouth, which caused so many pilgrimages by ICC members, was ten years ago. Time flies.....

ANOTHER 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Apart from the really significant 50th anniversary with which we are all so well acquainted, 1976 is proving quite a year for such events. Among them, the 50th anniversary of the MELODY MAKER. Most of our readers may be familiar with this weekly journal which chronicles the contemporary music scene. Today many such publications cater for the modern, frenzied, pop scene but originally, and initially, there was only one - the MELODY MAKER, which began publication in 1926. And that year is remembered for all sorts of reasons, notably perhaps, The General Strike.....but it was also the year of happier things. Like the year of Bing's first recording!

So the careers of Bing and the MM have run parallel, one might say, and it is not difficult to imagine, or rather to realise, that the name of Crosby has always loomed large in its pages for it has faithfully recorded the musical scene thro' the passing years.

True, its pages today seem to be dominated by names such as The Who, Them, The Pretty Things, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, The animals and other such esoteric-sounding names. Mott the Hoople, for instance! No doubt these names mean something to someone and they may even cherish the hope that when the MM celebrates its centenary in another 50 years' time, those names will still get "honourable" mention - as does Bing today in those self-same pages. But, does anyone want to bet that they will? These names occur, of course, because as already stated, the MELODY MAKER reports the current scene and if those names constitute a large part of the contemporary scene well that's the way the musical world is, mainly, today.

> To celebrate their anniversary, the MM produced a special celebratory issue a few months back and this included a much-abbreviated diary for every year since and including its birth-year, 1926. Naturally, this covered what is often, in fact USUALLY, referred to as the "golden age" of popular music when big bands such as Ambrose, Roy Fox, Cab Calloway, Benny Goodman, Harry Roy, Artie Shaw constituted the popular music scene. And singers such as Al Bowlly, Morton Downey, Russ Columbo, the Mills Brothers - and a certain promising singer by the name of Bing Crosby!

So with our grateful acknowledgements to the MELODY MAKER, coupled with our congratulations on their honourable and historic career, we feel some of the terse, abbreviated items concerning Bing which were selected by the present-day compiler of this "diary" will be of interest to our members. The early ones are references to Bing by implication only, and not by name, but the connection will be readily apparent:

1929: March - Attempts to book Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys and saxist Jimmy Dorsey for the (London) Savoy Hotel have broken down....

September - Paul Whiteman declines an acting role in the KING OF JAZZ for which he will receive £40,000

October - Paul Whiteman returns to New York because the KING OF JAZZ film has been postponed to find a better story!....

1930: May - Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra finish filming the KING OF

JAZZ in Hollywood.....

Editor: Thus contemporary snippets of the period so-beloved of present-day radio interviewers, newspaper writers &c....when they grossly over-emphasise those early days of which, of course, Bing wrote in CALL ME LUCKY - "durance vile" and so on; when Bing innocently enquired of the judge "everyone takes a drink....they take no notice of Prohibition". When, in fact, Bing was allowed out of jail (!) when he was required for the filming of the Whiteman epic...

1930: June - Paul Whiteman slashes size of his band and loses the Rhythm Boys who leave to film on the West Coast....

(Ha, this was the first significant step; but it was Bing who did the filming, not the trio; and the Mack Sennett shorts, famed for their great songs and great-voice Crosby were the result. There was a fair jump to the next item in the MM diary:

1931: June - Bing Crosby makes his solo recording debut on HMV and Brunswick...

October - Bing Crosby is featured star of CBS, doing six shows a week for 1,500 dollars a week.....

(Things had begun to happen in earnest now! Bing had made this solo debut in September of 1931 on a "sustaining" (non-sponsored) programme. He quickly obtained a sponsor....) There is then another big jump to

1933: May - MM American correspondent laments death of incomparable Eddie Lang, declaring "no guitarist white or black comes within miles of him...."

August - Bing Crosby plays crooning schoolmaster in his new film COLLEGE HUMOUR...

November - Bing Crosby may double London Palladium and West End Restaurant in May at £1,000 a week...

(So, they were reporting such things in November 1933! Who could possibly have guessed that it was to be another 43 years before Bing got to the Palladium?) Then we jump to:

1935: February - Bob Crosby puts clause in his NBC contract forbidding anyone billing him as a brother of Bing....

(Hmmm....this was the time when Bob, after singing around with various bands, became the new man to front the famous Ben Pollack Band in the vacancy caused when Ben gave up band work to buy a nightclub. It became, of course, Bob Crosby and his Orchestra and his Bobcats and earned a great reputation. Several of its reissued albums are in the shops now and, of course, contain Bob Crosby vocals). Thence to...

1937: April - Bing Crosby records are buried in secret vault in the Appalachian Mountains to be opened in AD8114!

(This is an item that will come as new to most readers, I imagine..... it didn't say which titles were being thus entombed for posterity... I somehow feel that date cannot be right - I mean, 6,177 years!)

June - Bing Crosby turns down £4,000 offer for 14 days at Hammersmith Palais....

(This item reveals again the continuing efforts to get Bing to come to Britain in the Thirties - all without success of course as he was so firmly contracted for radio and films, not to mention records, in the States)

1938: August - Louis Armstrong, due to appear in Bing Crosby picture DOCTOR RHYTHM, is mysteriously left out.

(MM's correspondent was misinformed for Louis did appear in the film which also featured the British star, Beatrice Lillie. Bing sang the great songs MY HEART IS TAKING LESSONS, ON THE SENTIMENTAL SIDE, THIS IS MY NIGHT TO DREAM and DOCTOR RHYTHM. Bea Lillie sang THERE'S RHYTHM IN THIS HEART OF MINE and coincidentally, we saw her singing this in the newsreel introduction to Bing's London Palladium shows.) There is a further jump then to:

1941: April - Jack Teagarden and his Band fixed for Crosby-Hope picture...

(It seems the MELODY MAKER slipped up again here for the film was BIRTH OF THE BLUES, and while it included Jack Teagarden it did not include Bob Hope! The film, incidentally, which Bing describes as his favourite in CALL ME LUCKY.)

December - Sax star Danny Polo "ghosts" clarinet playing of Bing Crosby in hit film BIRTH OF THE BLUES.

(This item has always been of interest because Danny Polo was fairly well-known in Britain on account of being a star member of the famous Ambrose Orchestra for many years. He subsequently returned to America.)

1943: April - Fire destroys Bing Crosby's 250,000 dollar home at Lake Tolucco.

August - Tommy Dorsey sacks entire orchestra including sidesmen Ziggy Elman, JOE BUSHKIN, and Buddy Rich....

(We include this item for obvious reasons - Joe's incredible link-up with Bing in the 70's among others).

December - Bing Crosby and Benny Goodman volunteer for overseas troop concerts.....

1944: September - Bing Crosby, £225,000-a-year singing star, arrives in London for USO and does first broadcast in Variety Bandbox....

(Thus we reach the first historic visit of Bing to Britain in the wake, as it were, of the Normandy invasion of Europe. We recently reproduced in BING the 1944 accounts of Bing's appearances in London, including the BBC broadcasts of which VARIETY BANDBOX was one. It was during this particular visit, of course, that Anne Shelton performed her impromptu duet with Bing of EASTER PARADE at the Stage Door Canteen. And Anne was one of the scores of celebrities that attended the Palladium in June/July this year to see Bing on stage and your Editor had the pleasure of a word with her. She remains a devoted Crosby fan.)

1945: February - Bing Crosby makes far-reaching decision to cut studio applause out of his Kraft Music Hall radio show....

(Oh dear, were the MM wrong again? I can't recall the applause being cut out!) There is then an enormous jump to:

1956: April - Bing Crosby due in Britain to play in Open Golf Championship at Hoylake....

(This was the occasion when Bing and Bob Hope played Donald Peers and Ted Ray - not in the Open, of course, but in a match which around a gallery of 10,000 followed them around the course....)

1957: October - Disc revival for Bing Crosby - heading for US Top Ten....

(This "revival" was due to "High Society" and the duet of TRUE LOVE with Grace Kelly, of course, which did indeed reach the top both in the States and in Britain for quite a number of weeks. And this was, of course, Bing's last (or shall we say "latest"? million-seller.)

1960: June - "I like Joan Regan and Russ Conway" says Bing Crosby in an interview..

1961: July - Bing Crosby here for three months' filming....

(For the ROAD TO HONG KONG film at Shepperton..)

August - Bing Crosby, Peggy Lee and Sammy Cahn on ABC Television...

That ended the microscopic items of Bing that the compiler of the MELODY MAKER's 50th Anniversary "diary" published in 1976. It would be totally misleading to think that this is all the MM had to say about the world's No. 1 Entertainer; the MM constantly reported the news of Bing, reviewed his films and records and movements almost throughout the 50 years they jointly ran together. And that has, of course, persisted to this day for the MM's review of Bing's Palladium show - reproduced elsewhere in this issue - was as fulsome as anybody's.

There was a further reference to Mr. C. on a page headed THE THIRTIES :

"But as the Thirties progressed, Vallee's crown was to be seized by another young crooner with jazz roots - Bing Crosby who started singing at his college glee club with a friend, Al Rinker.

"They eventually organised a dance band called the Musicaladers with Bing Drumming and singing duets.

"One night, the King of Jazz, Paul Whiteman, dropped by and signed the singers to a contract. A third member was added, Harry Barris, and the three became the world-famous Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys vocal trio. Bing appeared in the KING OF JAZZ movie but left Whiteman after three years and worked as a soloist at the Coconut Grove in Los Angeles, which began a life-long career as a successful singer and movie-actor playing romantic leads and light comedy.

"His radio signature tune for many years was PLEASE and he was part composer of one of his most celebrated hits, WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT.

"Bing recorded with the Mills Brothers, and also with many jazz orchestras including Duke Ellington, Don Redman, Isham Jones and Guy Lombardo..."

Well, one lives and learns: I never knew Bing used PLEASE as a signature tune - tho' I've always thought it would have been an excellent one for him. Don Redman does rate his mention on the strength of one song, LAWD YOU MADE THE NIGHT OO LONG, made in 1932 - with the Boswell Sisters, too.

This momentous issue of THE MELODY MAKER contained no less than nine pictures of Bing, including one small one on the front page - pictures of him as a Rhythm Boy, with Frank Sinatra in HIGH SOCIETY, and other well known pictures.

It is safe to say that Bing is the only artist within the sphere of the MELODY MAKER'S coverage who was performing when it was born, and still performing with brilliance and incredible energy 50 years later in this year of 1976.

TRADING POST

...the feature wherein members are invited to advertise - no charge - their "wants" or disposals in the way of records, tapes, pictures and other items of Crosbyana. If members will put such advertisements on a separate sheet of paper when writing it considerably assists compilation - and goes a long way to guaranteeing insertion!

They should be kept to modest proportions, i.e. up to say half a dozen lines. Should you have a lot of records &c. for disposal it is suggested you invite members to write for lists.

There are three items more asked for, more in demand than any others: first, BING'S HOLLYWOOD Nos. 1 to 15. We are constantly urged to press for a reissue of this set but it is most unlikely in our view that it ever will be. Fifteen LPs was a unique and prodigious issue with the added attraction that it did not have to be purchased as a set, i.e. all at one time, but could be bought in instalments, one album at a time. Perhaps because it was felt the market had been saturated - many members will recall the time when these albums, believe it or not, were obtainable at a cheap rate in sales! Now with the American Decca contract changing hands from time to time it is difficult to foresee them embarking on the project again. Many of the songs, of course, are getting reissued in other ways - WORLD RECORDS set the VERY BEST OF BING, for example. It follows that anyone who DOES have these HOLLYWOOD albums for sale should lose no time in advertising the fact!

Next in demand, so it would appear from correspondence, are the two singles:

STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE and SECOND TIME AROUND.

These really are elusive; especially suffering from the fact that they have appeared sparsely, if at all, on microgroove reissues. They are on labels (Phillips and MGM) that are not prolific in the Crosby LP orbit. Again, if any one has spare copies they will find them readily snapped up. Needless to say, tape substitutes are easily come by.

There is news of a PERRY COMO club of which I was hitherto unaware and in response to requests from some readers the address is: Miss Charlotte Dancey, 3, Roselawn, 89 London Rd., Worcester, WR5 2D7. It has a newsletter called - wait for it! - COMOTION. Clever, but not all that appropriate for the nice sound Perry makes....

JOHN SWINYARD, 4a Bedford Close, London, N10 1BB has acres of tapes of Bing, Bob, Ella, Vera Lynn and others he was thinking of erasing but feels they may be of interest to someone - reasonable prices asked....

DEREK COLLINGE, 41 Marsden Hall Rd. Nelson, Lancs, BB99PA wants to know if Bing has any more Christmas LPs available over here besides WHITE CHRISTMAS and A TIME TO BE JOLLY. Also the number of the Bing Crosby Story on CBS....

I've told Derek of THE SMALL ONE: I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS(WARNER), and A CHRISTMAS STORY (LONDON) but he still feels there may be others. Part 2 of the Bing Story on CBS was never issued, due it was said, to lack of support. Perhaps Larry Carr should try again!

MRS. PAT O'BRIEN, 46 Surrey Grove, Sutton, Surrey has CALL ME LUCKY and the book written by Ted 30 odd years ago BUT is anxious to acquire a copy of KATHRYN'S book BING AND OTHER THINGS if anyone can help please.

MIKE MANN, 153 Francklyn Gardens, Edgware, Midd'x has a large amount of records of radio shows with Bing, Al Jolson, Judy Garland, Dick Haymes, Vic Damone and Frank Sinatra which are all NEW. As the source is drying up he feels readers may be interested - write to Mike for details.

MANFRED FROSCHMAYER, Farbstrasse 9, 8800 Thalwil/ZH, Switzerland offers to send details of Bing records he has from ITALY. Write to him! Manfred is another after the BING'S HOLLYWOOD 1-15 and adds the pertinent comment: "...when these songs appear on other albums it is not the same, for the HOLLYWOOD series was in chronological order.." Quite so and a valid point.

MRS. BETTY LONNKUIST, 20 Tennyson Rd., Penarth, S. Glam is trying to get JOHN HANSON ENCORES and MY SONGS OF LOVE FOR YOU, also JOHN HANSON. Both are LPs on the Phillips label. Betty is willing to pay the full price - and is sorry she has no Bing to swop!

GEO. HARWOOD, 5, Glebe Rd., Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE18 9DS has for disposal TIME/LIFE "SWING ERA" (now unobtainable) - big bands from 1930-70 in stereo; 42 12" LPs in boxed sets of 3, each with a hard-back glossy paged descriptive book. Absolutely mint; played once only. Cost £94 will sell for any good offer or preferably exchange for Bing LPs - particularly BING'S HOLLYWOOD.

EDGAR LAWSON, 19 Belgrave St. Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside, L44 1BL has an early BING, issue No. 8 Oct. 25 1967 to trade - which gives me the opportunity to say that back nos. of this magazine are invariably in demand should anyone want to dispose of same. BERNARD J. DENHAM, 1883, Park Blvd., Palo Alto, California, 94306, USA for instance would "like to acquire a complete run from No. 1....." Hmmmm.....

BRIAN WOODS, 24 Owenroe Drive, Bangor, N. Ireland has acquired a Super 8mm Sound projector and would welcome information as to where he may buy Bing Crosby films - the only reason he bought the equipment, it seems. I know we have several such enthusiasts who can assist Brian in this direction.

If there are any members STILL without the Windmill 12" LP BING CROSBY: FAVOURITE MELODIES (WMD 260) it is available from your Editor (I'm a glutton for punishment, I guess!) Price must be £1.40 incl. post and packing to recoup earlier losses!

ROY BISSELL, 26 Charlotte Rd. Wednesbury WS10 7NE W. Midlands wants back nos of BING (20-36).

BERT HAMBLETT, 58 Park Rd. Meols, Hoylake, Wirral, L47 7BQ has 14 copies of GOLDEN YEARS to exchange for 14 BING'S!

"BINGPICS" is the name of a gallery of photographs featuring Bing, his family and with other artists, collected over the years and offered by FRANK MURPHY, 32 Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear, NE28 7NE. The main list appeared in a recent issue of BING, new members will get the list with this issue.

Frank now announces 1976 additions to the gallery as follows:

THE 1976 BING CROSBY TOUR OF THE U.K. - SOUVENIR SET NO. 1

8 Postcards. Price £1.60p UK. European and other overseas £2 equivalent.

1. The Palladium: complete front of hour display.
2. Frank Murphy/Les Mackin admiring the above!
3. Frank Murphy/Les Mackin/Johnny Jones & wife Margaret with big Bing Palladium poster.
4. Bing leaving car en route to stage-door.
5. 2nd unique shot of Bing.
6. Palladium; front with crowd on the first night.
7. Frank Murphy/Johnny Joyce/Les Mackin - Palladium front.
8. Frank Murphy/Les Mackin with EVENING NEWS poster reading "BING TRIUMPHS AT PALLADIUM (actually shot in London street).

SOUVENIR SET NO. 2 10 Post cards. Price £2.00 UK £2.50 overseas.

1. Bing & Kathryn arrive London Airport.
2. Bing with Harry, Mary Frances and Nathaniel.
3. Bing and Kathryn in London street.
4. -do- Pose 2.

(cont. over...

5. Bing & Kathryn, pose 3. near Palladium stage-door.
6. London Greater Council honours Bing.
7. -do- pose 2.
8. -do- pose 3.
9. Bing & Kathryn: unique shot with the Thames and Big Ben in the background.
10. Bing with Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

FREE TO MEMBERS ORDERING BOTH SETS: A UNIQUE COLOUR SHOT OF BING SURROUNDED BY A TREMENDOUS CROWD OUTSIDE THE PALLADIUM STAGE-DOOR.

Please allow 14 days for delivery. Due to lack of interest the larger size 15 x 12 pictures have been discontinued. Write directly to Frank at the address given, and NOT to the Secretary.

FOR EXCHANGE: New, unplayed copy of JOKER SM3612 (Bing and Sinatra). My wants: Bing Sings the Hits LA8674; LA8675; DL5298, TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL (LAT8253); DRIFTING & DREAMING (LAT8334); AROUND THE WORLD (DL 8687); HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SONGS (FL 30360). JACK B. NIMBLE A198-23. Will exchange for any one of these in top condition. Miss Pat Forster, 11, Norfolk Close, St. Margarets, E. Twickenham, Midd'x.

A REALLY EXCELLENT COLOUR-PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FRONT OF THE PALLADIUM DURING BING'S SEASON SHOWING HIS NAME, PICTURES &C. IS AVAILABLE FROM FRANK HATWELL, 240 GILLOTT ROAD, BIRMINGHAM 16. IT MEASURES 7 x 5 INS. AND IS MOUNTED. IT IS ANOTHER EXCELLENT SOUVENIR OF THE GREAT OCCASION - TO FRAME, PUT IN YOUR SCRAP-BOOK, OR PLACE ALONGSIDE THE LOVELY BROCHURE THAT WAS SOLD AS A PROGRAMME.

MOUNTED AS STATED, THESE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM FRANK AT £1 EACH: AND FRANK IS GOING TO KEEP HIS LIST OPEN FOR AROUND 3 WEEKS AFTER THIS ISSUE REACHES YOU. THE PRICE, OF COURSE, INCLUDES POSTAGE. THE COLOUR IS EXCELLENT AND ANYONE WHO FAILED TO GET A PICTURE OF THIS HISTORIC SIGHT SHOULD WRITE TO FRANK WITH REMITTANCE.

FOR SALE: Cassettes of Bing recordings: BING'S HOLLYWOOD (Decca); 14 records, the one missing is "Pennies from Heaven". 5 Cassettes: £12.50 the lot.

"Home on the Range" (Decca); "Among My Souvenirs" Ace of Hearts; "Holiday in Europe" (Decca) - one cassette, £3.00.

Marc Matelart, 16 Avenue Albert I, 1420 Braine, L'Alleud, BELGIUM.

To many new readers: THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY IS the definitive Crosby discography; it is now long out of print and reprinting will be a tremendous project WHEN we get the permission and co-operation of the original compilers. Should copies become available they fetch big prices. This lists ALL Bing's recordings, on all labels, in date order with accompanists, fellow-duettists &c. and many explanatory notes.

The A to Z of Bing Crosby also, regrettably, is now totally gone. This listed all Bing's recordings in alphabetical order, together with accompaniests and fellow artists on records. The mini-discography listed all Bing's recordings but not in the precise and comprehensive detail as THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY. This too awaits reprinting. THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD is a comprehensive compilation of Crosby films; also now out of print and only a limited edition when it WAS issued. A depressing picture for the new-comers, BUT, a ray of light is that we hope to be proceeding almost immediately with the up-dated LP-OGRAPHY, listing all Bing's LPs. If you think this may be a comparatively meagre booklet - IT RUNS to about 160 pages! Concrete details in next issue.